Hafa Adai!

RISCA president's travels, car rental expenses allegedly excessive. PAGE 3
COVID update: 0 hospitalizations, 77 new cases. PAGE 6

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 118

www.saipantribune.com WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2022 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IPI and CCC finalizing settlement

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its sister company, Best Sunshine International, have informed the court that they are currently in the final stages of completing a settlement agreement with the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

See IPI on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

Source: Office of the Governor

House unanimously OK's LGBTQ-friendly bills

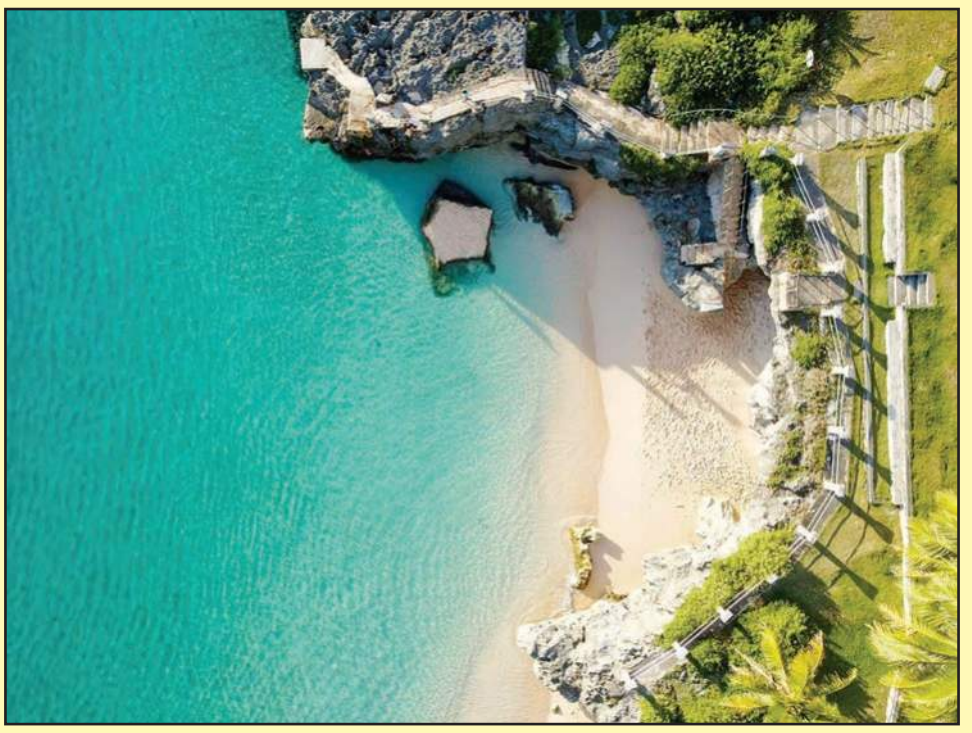
Some of the CNMI's most vulnerable community members got one step closer in their search for equality and acceptance last Monday when the House of Representatives unanimously passed two House bills that promote the health, safety, and well-being of LGBTQ+ people in the Marianas.

House Bill 22-87—known as the CNMI Equality Act, Áktun Achá-Parehu, or Alléghúl Aweeweppagh—provides that no person shall be denied the equal protection

See HOUSE on Page 4

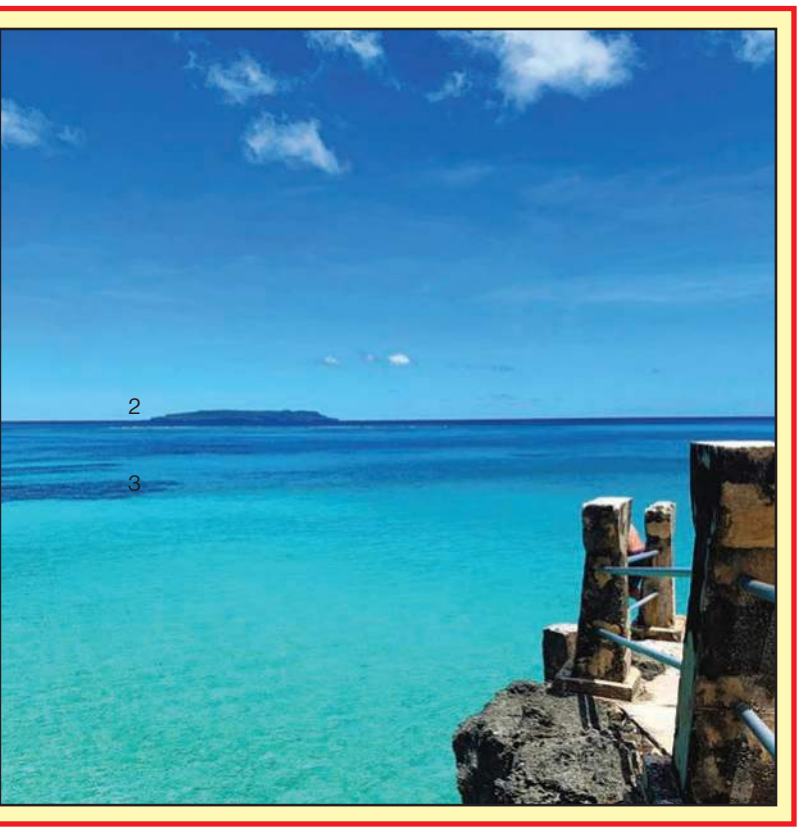
BRAZZLE WINS MVA PHOTO CONTEST

Tinian resident Joshua Brazzle's photograph of the Milky Way as photographed from Tinian wins first place and $500 in the "Capture Your Tinian Treasure" Facebook photo contest of the Marianas Visitors Authority in May 2022. The contest was meant to highlight the island of Tinian.
JOSHUA BRAZZLE



The entry of Facebook user Saixian Chen wins second place and $300 cash in the "Capture Your Tinian Treasure" Facebook photo contest. Chen's entry shows Taga Beach.
SAIXIAN CHEN

The entry of Tinian resident Steph Borja wins third place and $200 cash in the "Capture Your Tinian Treasure" Facebook photo contest. Borja's entry shows the island of Aguiguan photographed from Taga Beach on Tinian.
SBORJA



INSIDE

BUSINESS
Coca-Cola is partnering with the maker of Jack Daniel's to sell premixed Jack and Coke.

PAGE 12

WORLD
Workers exhume bodies from another mass grave near the town of Bucha on Kyiv's outskirts.

PAGE 13

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Among outdoor grilling fans, no rivalry burns hotter. like gas grills versus charcoal grills.

PAGE 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

OIA official lauds NMI's efforts to recover after pandemic

Basil Ottley, the director of Policy at the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, congratulated Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CNMI yesterday for its efforts to revitalize the CNMI economy after the global pandemic.

In particular, Ottley highlighted the CNMI's Travel Resumption Investment Program with South Korea, as well as the amount of observable business activity in the CNMI.

Ottley met with Torres yesterday to discuss the CNMI's current state of recovery after natural disasters, the global pandemic, and opportunities for growth of the CNMI's economy and conservation of environments.

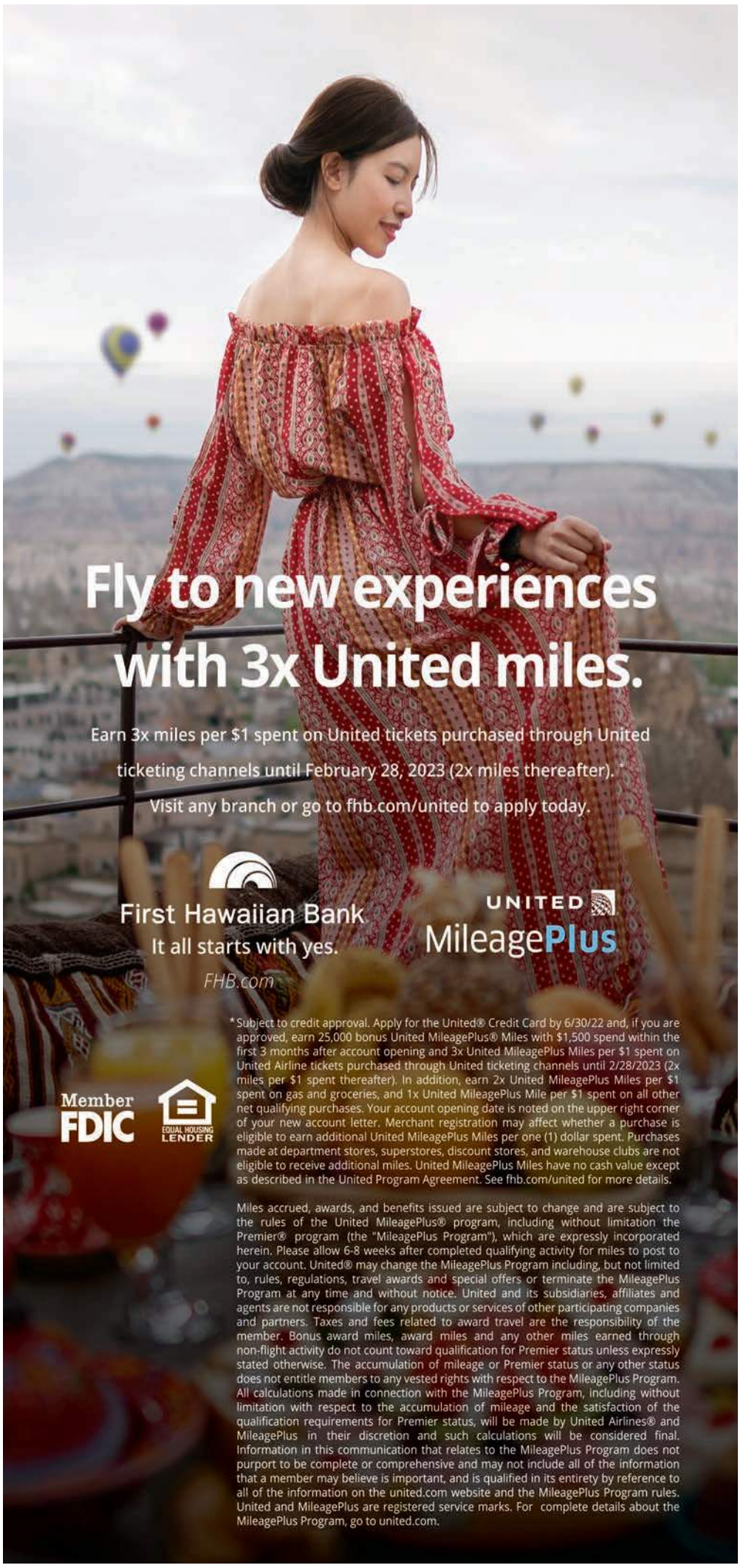
Ottley also commended the CNMI on its recent presentation at the Territorial Climate Infrastructure Workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii, in March. The delegation that represented the Marianas included representatives of various CNMI government departments and agencies who presented on both the needs and progress of the CNMI in regard to water, built and natural infrastructure, broadband, energy, and legacy pollution.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, shakes hands with Director of Policy Basil Ottley of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs after yesterday's meeting. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

"We at [DOI-OIA] talked about the great representation and quality of the presentations by team NMI. The other territories were also praising your administration's presence and presentation throughout," said Ottley.

Torres thanked Ottley for taking the time to visit the CNMI to see firsthand the changes and progress being made, as well as the work that still needs to be done to build resilient infrastructure while preserving the natural environment. Specifically, Torres and Ottley discussed the opportunities that the OIA has available to support critical priorities regarding water and coral reef management, especially given impacts in land and water environments due to climate change.

"I've built a strong relationship with the federal family over the past seven years, and I look forward to our continued partnership with DOI," said Torres. ***(PR)***


Fly to new experiences
with 3x United miles.
Earn 3x miles per $1 spent on United tickets purchased through United ticketing channels until February 28, 2023 (2x miles thereafter).*
Visit any branch or go to fhb.com/united to apply today.
First Hawaiian Bank
It all starts with yes.
FHB.com
UNITED MileagePlus
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
* Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United® Credit Card by 6/30/22 and, if you are approved, earn 25,000 bonus United MileagePlus® Miles with $1,500 spend within the first 3 months after account opening and 3x United MileagePlus Miles per $1 spent on United Airline tickets purchased through United ticketing channels until 2/28/2023 (2x miles per $1 spent thereafter). In addition, earn 2x United MileagePlus Miles per $1 spent on gas and groceries, and 1x United MileagePlus Mile per $1 spent on all other net qualifying purchases. Your account opening date is noted on the upper right corner of your new account letter. Merchant registration may affect whether a purchase is eligible to earn additional United MileagePlus Miles per one (1) dollar spent. Purchases made at department stores, superstores, discount stores, and warehouse clubs are not eligible to receive additional miles. United MileagePlus Miles have no cash value except as described in the United Program Agreement. See fhb.com/united for more details.
Miles accrued, awards, and benefits issued are subject to change and are subject to the rules of the United MileagePlus® program, including without limitation the Premier® program (the "MileagePlus Program"), which are expressly incorporated herein. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying activity for miles to post to your account. United® may change the MileagePlus Program including, but not limited to, rules, regulations, travel awards and special offers or terminate the MileagePlus Program at any time and without notice. United and its subsidiaries, affiliates and agents are not responsible for any products or services of other participating companies and partners. Taxes and fees related to award travel are the responsibility of the member. Bonus award miles, award miles and any other miles earned through non-flight activity do not count toward qualification for Premier status unless expressly stated otherwise. The accumulation of mileage or Premier status or any other status does not entitle members to any vested rights with respect to the MileagePlus Program. All calculations made in connection with the MileagePlus Program, including without limitation with respect to the accumulation of mileage and the satisfaction of the qualification requirements for Premier status, will be made by United Airlines® and MileagePlus in their discretion and such calculations will be considered final. Information in this communication that relates to the MileagePlus Program does not purport to be complete or comprehensive and may not include all of the information that a member may believe is important, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to all of the information on the united.com website and the MileagePlus Program rules. United and MileagePlus are registered service marks. For complete details about the MileagePlus Program, go to united.com.

You ae invited to the
OPENING CEREMONY
NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022
5:30 JUN17 2022
Oleai Sports Complex
(Track off Beach Road)
Rising up to the challenge!
Share the Hafa Adai spirit as we welcome the delegates, athletes and guests for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022!

RISCA president's travels, car rental expenses allegedly excessive

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Ex-lawmaker seeks probe on alleged excessive expenditures

Crispin M. Ogo, vice president of a non-profit group Rota Island Specialty Crop Association, or RISCA, has called for an investigation into the allegedly excessive expenditures for travels and car rental incurred by their president, Ivan Mereb.

In his letter to RISCA board of directors dated May 12, 2022, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Ogo said the RISCA board should create a three-man special commission to investigate the alleged mishandling of RISCA funds.

"If I'm alone on this quest, then so be it. This will make other board of directors liable for the action of president Mereb," said Ogo, who served two terms, 2004 to 2008, in the House of Representatives representing Rota.

He claims that Mereb's travels as RISCA president amounted to $12,588, while his car rental allegedly amounted to $14,431, for a total of $26,980.

Mereb denied yesterday that such expenditures are excessive.

Regarding the travel, Mereb said he and many Rota officials went to Saipan, where they met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to discuss the Rota Workforce Investment Initiative.

About the car rental, Mereb said they rented a pickup truck as RISCA has no vehicle, and that it's quite expensive to rent a truck on Rota.

Mereb said he is not hiding anything and that he is confident that nothing will come out of the allegations as the expenditures were incurred as part of the RISCA board's policy.

Mereb said he already wrote the Rota Legislative Delegation in response to Ogo's accusations.

He believes he has been targeted because he is running for a House seat representing Rota under the Republican Party this Nov. 8 elections.

Ogo is running as an independent for a Senate seat representing Rota.

When asked for more information about his allegations yesterday, Ogo said Mereb is still their president, but during their board meeting last week, the members approved his request for Mereb to step aside as they are now in the process of resolving the matter internally.

Ogo said he, Mereb, and the remainder of the board are on the same page with resolving the expenditure matter.

"There is no infighting. We are trying to work within RISCA's bylaws," Ogo said.

He said they are a small community of farmers, fishermen, and artisans working together to make the organization function according to its bylaws.

In his May 12 letter, Ogo said it is clear that Mereb went on a spending spree without the board's knowledge and

See RISCA on Next Page

ARMATECH

Elevator, Escalator, Lift Installer and Repairer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RSOQ-22-028

Design, Construction Management, and Other Professional Services for Various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of various water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water distribution and transmission main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), sewer manholes, sewer lift stations, water booster pump stations, water storage reservoirs, water treatment systems, wastewater treatment systems, upgrades to existing water and wastewater facilities; providing archaeological and UXO studies and monitoring, providing biological assessments, providing project management services, providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all future Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, ARPA funded grants, EDA grants, DOI/OIA grants, Saipan Local Appropriations, and FEMA grants. All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSOQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RSOQ 22-028, Request for Statement of Qualifications"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 13, 2022**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to lack of information or understanding of the RSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 21, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
234-7689
234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after June 21, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Kagman Community Park, Phase II Project	Revitalize and enhance the park to provide additional equipment to accommodate the growing community	Kagman, Saipan	$275,000.00
Rota Community Fitness Court Facility	To further ongoing initiatives in diversifying economic opportunities while increasing collaborative efforts in the promotion of health program activities.	Sinapalo, Rota	$130,000.00
Tinian Community Fitness Court Facility	To further ongoing initiatives in diversifying economic opportunities while increasing collaborative efforts in the promotion of health program activities.	San Jose, Tinian	$130,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **June 21, 2022, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen (15) days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office by email to CPD Honolulu Field Office: CPDHonolulu@hud.gov and CPD_COVID-19OEE-HNL@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

‘CNMI is in a solid position to make a full recovery’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Like the rest of the world, the CNMI’s tourism industry has a long way to go to full recovery, but it is in a solid position to make such a recovery, according to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

This month alone, the CNMI is expecting to receive over 7,500 visitors from its biggest source market, South Korea. “This will be our highest monthly arrival yet,” said Iakopo in her presentation during the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee’s hearing Wednesday last week on MVA’s budget for fiscal year 2023.

In fiscal year 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI received 425,000 visitors. In fiscal year 2022, that number was at 215,000 visitors—half the number compared to FY 2019.

Iakopo said that most of those 215,000 came during the early months before COVID-19.

She noted that in fiscal year 2021, only about 5,000 visitors came to the Marianas.

Through April of this fiscal year, the CNMI has already quadrupled last year’s total arrivals, with over 23,000 arrivals.

MVA initiated the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan last July as a means to jumpstart CNMI’s economy.

As a result of TRIP, Iakopo said, there has been a gradual increase in both flights and visitor arrivals, from zero flight in June 2021 or before the TRIP started, to over 40 flights in the last month, with an increase projected into next month.

“Since the beginning of TRIP, we have carefully and strategically modified, reduced, and most especially eliminated the incentives we started with,” Iakopo said.

Those incentives included airline subsidies, hybrid quarantine, money for tourists to spend locally, travel agency incentives, and free PCR tests.

MVA expects to end this month the modified airline subsidies as the CNMI has gradually allowed organic market demand to take over.

Iakopo said that due to TRIP, there are now five airlines flying 12 flights a week to the CNMI from two cities in Korea. This includes two airlines—Air Busan and Air Seoul—that have never flown to the Marianas before.

“Factors that continue to influence arrivals from Korea are…the safety of our destination, entry requirements either here or returning to Korea, and testing and our quarantine support,” Iakopo said.

She said they just got a report from their offshore office in Korea that, as of that day (Wednesday last week), the Korean government will be lifting the quarantine requirements for unvaccinated people, primarily children.

Most importantly, one of the biggest returns that the Marianas received through TRIP is the unprecedented amount of media exposure and promotion of the CNMI destination, she said.

“Because of the travel bubble, the Marianas has received exposure in virtually every major news outlet in the country,” she said.

Since the CNMI was the first of only two travel destinations endorsed by the Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Iakopo said the Marianas was also prominently featured in every travel agency on their home pages and in their collaterals.

She said the dollar value of this coverage is virtually immeasurable and far beyond MVA’s annual budget even during pre-COVID.

With respect to Japan market, Iakopo said they have been assessing the market for about as long as Korea, but the Japanese public has not been traveling until recently.

“With the recent easing of many restrictions in international travel for Japanese residents, now is the time to invest,” she said.

Iakopo said MVA is in the process of finalizing a contract for airline incentives to commit direct flights from Japan within the next month. If all goes as planned, these incentives will support three weekly flights from Japan.

“At this time, I’m not in the liberty to share further specifics as the contract has not been finalized yet,” Iakopo said.

MVA is requesting an appropriation of $15.8 million for fiscal year 2023 to fund operations of eight divisions, with majority of the money going to marketing destination enhancement.

“This is comparable to our budget pre-COVID and with at least two of our three top source markets going back online, this will allow the MVA to continue its work toward full economic recovery,” Iakopo said.

Emergency traffic diversion in As Terlaje

There is an emergency traffic diversion on the bottom of the As Terlaje Hill on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero located across the YCO Do-It-Best Hardware on the outer westbound lane and eastbound lane.

Travel lanes on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero has been reduced to one lane in each direction due to an extensive sewer line break. The lane restrictions will remain in place until June 16, 2022.

For the safety of the men and women on the jobsite, motorists are advised to take alternative routes or proceed with reduced speed though the construction areas to ensure the safety of fellow travelers and construction workers completing these repairs to our critical infrastructure. Motorist should avoid this area and seek alternative routes if at all possible.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Fees waived for NMC Cash for College participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College’s upcoming Cash for College workshop will qualify to have their NMC Fall 2022 admission application fee and placement test fees waived. The waiver represents a savings of up to $75.

The Cash for College event will be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on the following dates:

■ **Saipan: June 15, 2022 (9:30am – 4pm)**

Registration will be at the Mango Terrace, which is located next to the NMC Olympio T. Borja Library in Building O. SHEFA staff members will be present from 9:30am to 12:30pm, while CNMI Scholarship staff members will be present from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

■ **Tinian: June 15, 2022 (10am – 1pm)**

The event will be at Room D of the NMC Tinian Campus.

■ **Rota: June 23, 2022 (10am – 12pm)**

The event will be at the NMC Rota Center.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA), Tinian Municipal Scholarship, Rota Municipal Scholarship, and the TEACH Grant.

Workshop participants can also have their financial aid documents and other scholarship paperwork photocopied free of charge.

Staff members from the college’s Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification, an official transcript from high school (at least three copies), a copy of 2020 and 2021 1040, a copy of 2020 and 2021 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport and a voters registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email fao@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

HOUSE

From Page 1

of the laws or the enjoyment of civil rights, nor be discriminated against on account of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The bill expressly prohibits such discrimination in employment, and adds protections for sexual orientation and gender identity in the Commonwealth’s existing nondiscrimination laws, covering areas that include the civil service, health insurance, housing, and jury service.

H.B. 22-86 provides an update to the CNMI’s vital statistics law, consistent with current medical standards of care and best practices, to ease the process for transgender individuals to match the gender markers on their birth certificates with their gender identities. The bill also includes privacy protections for individuals who seek to alter the gender markers on their birth certificates and removes the overly burdensome requirement of gender reassignment surgery and a court order.

H.B. 22-86 was amended by the committee to incorporate recommendations by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. such as requirements for a signed attestation under penalty of law by the individual seeking to change the gender marker on their birth certificate, and for a signature by a parent, legal guardian, or legal representative if the requesting individual is a minor under the age of 18.

“The passage of the CNMI Equality Act and Vital Statistics provisions demonstrate our strong tradition of respect and love for one another, and how our community embraces gender diversity. We want our laws to reflect our values,” said the bills’ author. Rep. Christina “Tina” Sablan (D-Saipan), who chairs the Health and Welfare Committee. “Gender equality and the well-being of LGBTQ+ people in our community continue to be among our [committee’s] top priorities this term.”

The committee held public meetings on both bills and received written and oral comments in support of both bills, as well as supportive petitions signed by approximately 500 people.

Sablan noted that the CNMI currently ranks among the lowest in the nation in terms of policies that protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination, harassment, and violence. H.B. 22-86 and 22-87 are products of meetings and discussions with LGBTQ+ advocates that began with last summer’s first legislative Pride Talks policy roundtable, hosted by the committee and the House of Representatives of the 22nd Legislature. ***(PR)***

IPI

From Page 1

According to a notice of agreement to terms that was filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI by IPI, through lawyers Joey San Nicolas, Kevin Abikoff, and Samuel Salyer, they informed the court that they have reached an agreement with CCC executive director Andrew Yeom as to the terms of the agreement and are in the process of finalizing the document.

“The parties hereby provide notice to the court that plaintiffs and the executive director of the Commonwealth Casino Commission have reached an agreement in principle as to the terms of a settlement. The parties are in the process of finalizing these terms through a Settlement Agreement and will provide notice to the court upon the entry of this agreement,” the notice stated.

IPI previously filed a complaint against the CCC and took out a temporary restraining order against the commission to prohibit it from moving forward with a hearing to revoke IPI’s exclusive casino commission.

According to court documents, plaintiffs in this case filed their complaint and emergency motion for TRO last May 23.

The court issued a TRO on May 23, ordering CCC to cease and desist from proceeding with enforcement action 2021-001-005, including convening the enforcement hearing scheduled for May 24-25.

The parties appeared before the court for a status conference on May 25, where the defendants asked for more time to respond to IPI’s emergency motion.

Following the status conference, the court issued an order extending CCC’s deadline to file its opposition to IPI to May 31, with plaintiff’s reply due June 2.

Based on a stipulation by the parties filed on May 31, the court entered an order extending the TRO and granting the joint stipulated motion to stay briefing on IPI’s motion due to the parties’ significant progress toward a settlement.

According to the order, the court extended the TRO through July 8, and stayed the briefing on the plaintiffs’ complaint and emergency motion for TRO for a period of 30 days.

The parties are scheduled for a status conference on Friday, July 1.

A previous article on the *Saipan Tribune* stated that Best Sunshine/IPI were expecting an infusion of $150 million by the end of May that would allow it to pay off missed payments on its casino license agreement, meet its obligations to its creditors, resume operations, and restart construction.

RISCA

From Page 3

violated RISCA’s by-laws.

He alleged that Mereb rented a vehicle for 33 days at $199 per day from Islander Rental Car in the total amount of $5,970.

He also questioned RISCA’s rental of a vehicle for 77 days totaling $8,461. He said furthermore, there was a car rental at $109 per day to sell fish, which resulted in no profit or gain for RISCA.

Ogo did not indicate the name of the car rental company involved in the $8,461. In the letter, however, he mentioned Bepari as another car rental company.

Ogo said none of the board or RISCA members knew about these expenditures for travel and car rental amounting to $26,980.

He said he knows RISCA members will question the expenditure of their $100,000 budget.

The Rota Legislative Delegation appropriated $100,000 for RISCA to benefit the farming, fishing, and artisan community on the island.

Ogo said the Rota Legislative Delegation co-chairs wrote Mereb last Dec. 10, 2021, urging him to submit an expenditure. Prior to the delegation’s letter, Ogo said he has been reminding the president to submit a final report to the RISCA members and the delegation.

Welcome to our island of Saipan athletes, team support units, families, officials, media, and friends

This year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 is truly a show of our commitment to honor our collective goal of promoting understanding among all people and building a better world for everyone.

Along with the residents of the Municipality of Saipan, I want to greet you with a very warm Hafa Adai, Faischo, and Welcome to our beautiful island of Saipan.

Good luck as you compete to be the top island participant in all games in this NMPMG 2022.

Enjoy your stay here and bring back home lots of lifetime memories of your time here. Remember that Saipan is also your island, your home away from home.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

Rising up to the challenge!

DAVID M. APATANG
Mayor, Municipality of Saipan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN
UNITED STATES, NOV. 4, 1986

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-029
REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-029, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 7, 2022,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer at westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COVID update: 0 hospitalizations

As of June 12, 2022, there were zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, covering the period from June 6 to 12, 2022.

Also, 77 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,482 cases since March 28, 2020. Two (2) additional cases were identified on June 4, 2022.

Of the 77 cases identified on June 6 to 12, 2022, 18 were identified on June 6, 18 on June 7, 12 on June 8, 18 on June 9, seven on June 10, three on June 11, and one on June 12.

Of the total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have already been 11,405 recoveries, 43 active cases, and 34 COVID-19-related deaths.

The next report will be around June 20, 2022.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of **two** COVID-19-related fatalities.

The 368th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on June 10, 2022. The patient was a 91-year-old female, fully vaccinated with one booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on June 9.

The 369th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at GMH on June 13, 2022. The patient was a 76-year-old female, unvaccinated, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on June 13.

Also, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported 185 new cases of COVID-19. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

500 Sails invites PMG athletes to canoe rides

500 Sails sailors and boatbuilders are inviting the athletes and dignitaries from the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 to the Guma Sakman to participate in special community canoe rides beginning Friday, June 17, at 9:30am.

"Our organization shares in the community's excitement as the Pacific Mini Games comes closer and closer," said 500 Sails executive director Peter Perez. "We want to do our part to make this a special occasion for all teams and participants from Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia. Please feel welcome to sail with us at the Guma Sakman."

The sailing schedule is as follows:

- Friday and Saturday (June 17 and 18) 9:30am - 11:30am
- Sunday-Wednesday (June 19-22) 10am – 12pm.
- Thursday (June 23) 12pm – 2pm
- Friday and Saturday (June 24 and 25) 2pm – 4pm

All sails take place at the Guma Sakman in Susupe, located along Beach Road, south of the Oleai Sports Complex. The Guma Sakman is located directly across the Marianas High School campus. The organization requests that athletes bring their own water bottle and towel. A registration sheet will need to be filled out immediately prior to sailing.

This event was made possible through generous support from the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Tinian Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors, and members of the 22nd Tinian Legislative Delegation, which comprises Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider. Gratitude is likewise extended to the Office of Saipan Sen. Edith Deleon Guerrero.

500 Sails is a 501(c)(3) and CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to reviving, promoting, and preserving the maritime cultural traditions of the Mariana Islands through community engagement in canoe cultural values and activities. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-022
Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1 for Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked ***"CUC-RAESP-22-022, Rota Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAESP-22-021
Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1, for Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RAESP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked "CUC-RAESP-22-021, Tinian Concrete Power Poles Project, Phase 1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

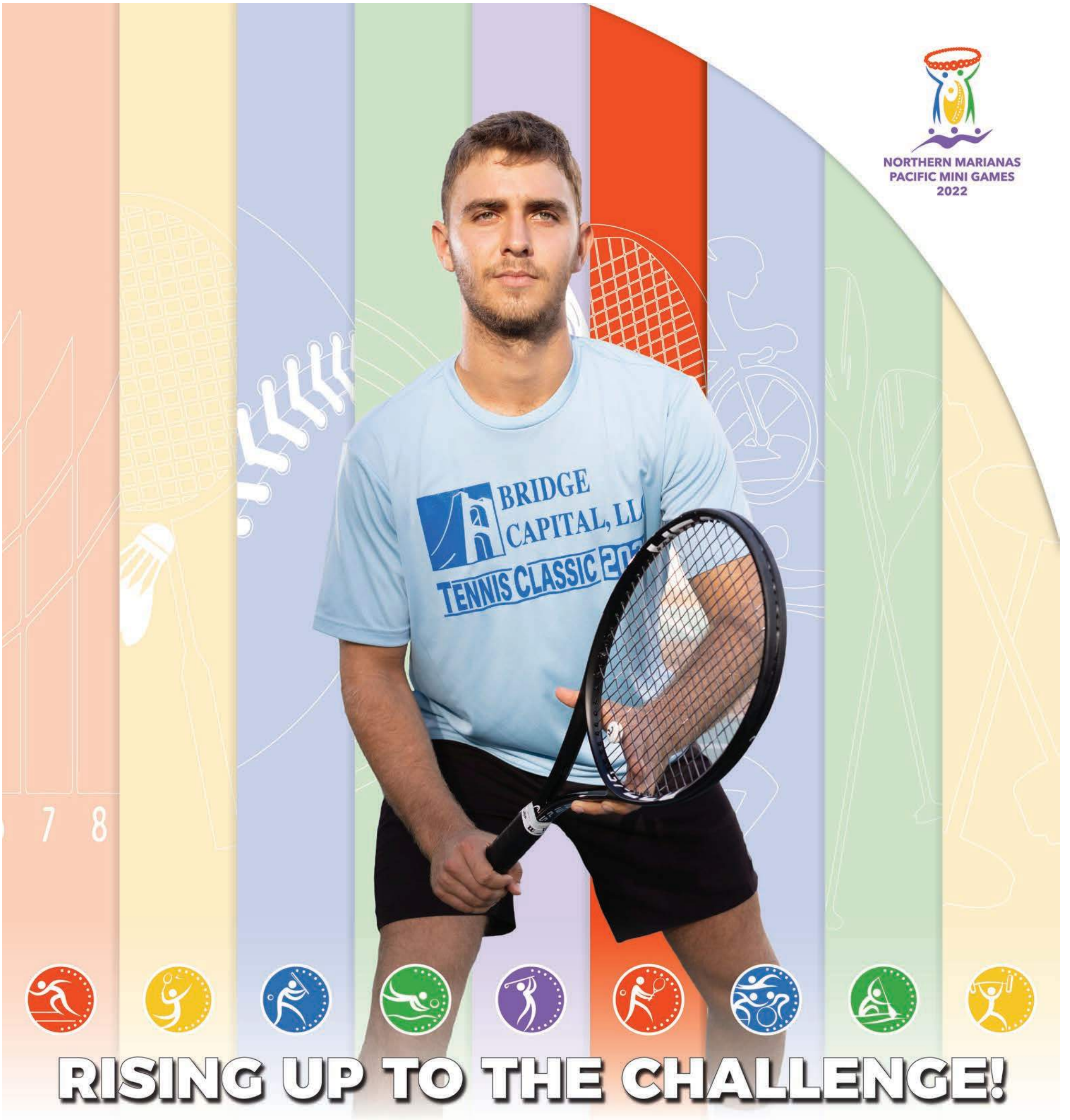
All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RAESP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RAESP under the contract. The RASEP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RAESP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 16, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Adrian Reyes, CUC Engineer for Power Division via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator


NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022
BRIDGE
CAPITAL, LL
TENNIS CLASSIC 20
RISING UP TO THE CHALLENGE!
JUNE 17 - 25, 2022 | www.northernmarianas2022.com
PLATINUM
JOETEN DAIDAI FOUNDATION
GALLERIA
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
IT&E
GOLD
docomo pacific
FISHGUYZ
LSG Sky Chefs
UER
SILVER
Mobil
NMTECH
Bank of Guam
SHADED RENTALS
BRONZE
AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN • CHONG'S CORPORATION
FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK • GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN
HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY • ISLANDER RENT A CAR • MATSON
MICRONESIAN AIR CARGO SERVICES • SAIPAN ICE & WATER
SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC.
HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SPORTSMANSHIP
Cepeda Tent Rental • EST Rental • Hwang Jae Corporation
Kalayaan, Inc. • Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
RNV Construction • Saipan Shipping Company, Inc.
Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance • Island Cafe

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 118

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

Mass shooting. Inaction. Repeat.

By PETE WEICHLEIN
The Fulcrum

Pete Weichlein is the CEO of FMC: The Former Members of Congress Association.

As we are dealing yet again with the horror of our children falling victim to a mass murderer, let's keep our focus squarely on what unites us, because within hours of the news breaking, the political and media voices that benefit from keeping us divided were already out in full force.

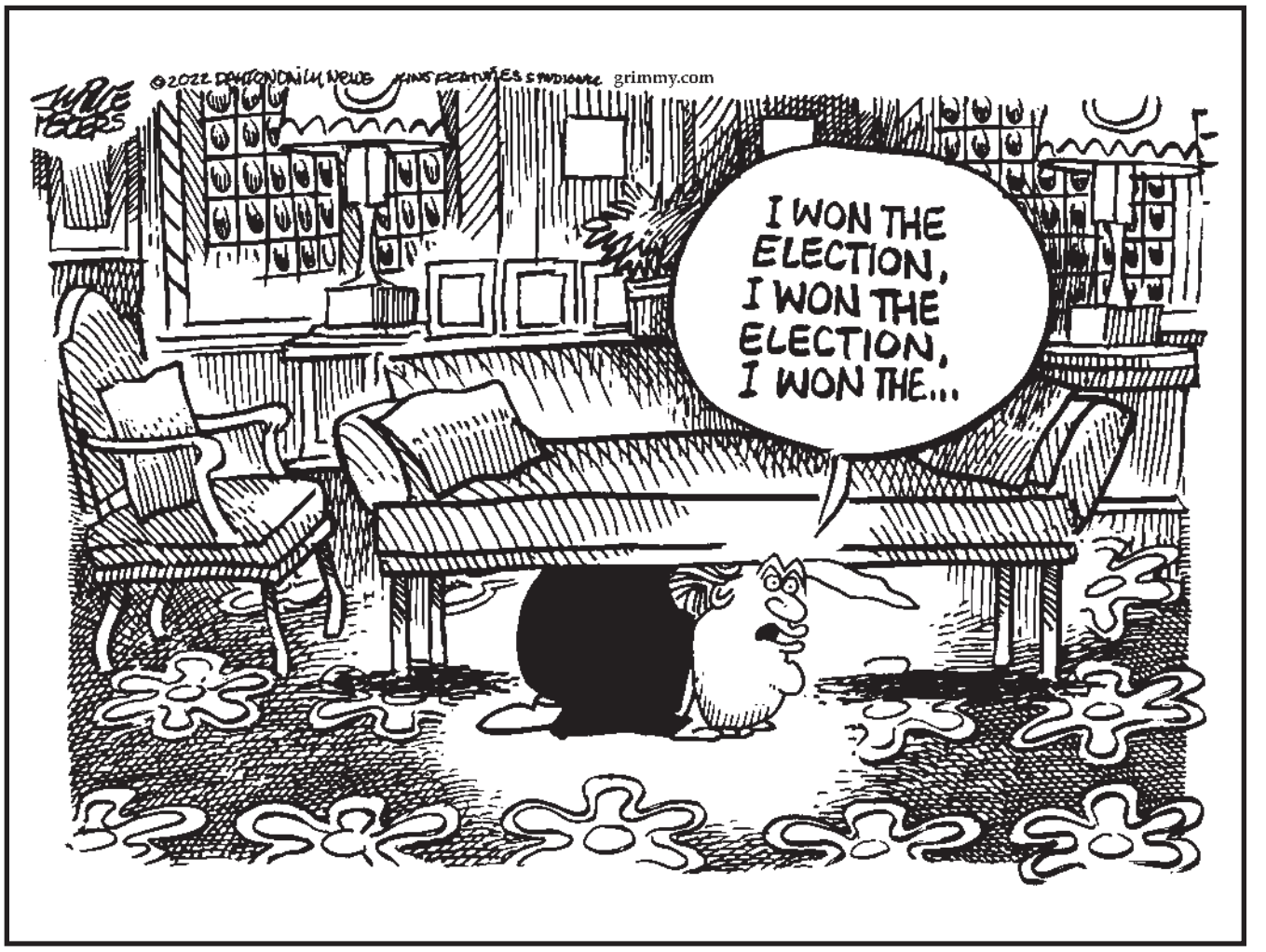
Regardless of political persuasion, whether we are gun owners, who we voted for in the last presidential election, and what our ZIP code is – we all agree that America is in a gut-wrenching and heartbreaking pattern of school shootings, followed by outrage, followed by inaction. There isn't one rational American who didn't react to the news from Uvalde, Texas, with despair, followed by anger that yet again a madman could spread carnage and end young lives in an instant. These days we are not united by much but, surely, we are united by anguish over innocent lives lost and fear for our own children and grandchildren. How is common grief not enough for a call to action and a demand of Congress to overcome differences in search for solutions?

There's no party label when it comes to gut-wrenching sorrow over 19 murdered fourth graders and two heroic teachers trying to shield them. Parents and grandparents, regardless of where they are politically, hugged their little ones tighter upon hearing the dreadful news. Republicans and Democrats alike expressed their grief and anger that yet another madman ripped a community apart. But almost as tragically, that's where the common ground ends. Like so many other aspects of life in today's America, we're letting the extremists dictate policy and we're allowing those who benefit from keeping us divided control the narrative. How, after Newtown and Parkland and now Uvalde, have we not moved even an inch closer to coming together, across the political aisle, and committed ourselves to finding compromise and solutions that most assuredly will save innocent lives in the future? Because fear-mongering voices from both extremes of the political spectrum won't let the rest of us unite behind common sense answers.

The numbers vary depending on when polls are conducted, but a majority of Americans support making changes to our gun laws. Yes, stark differences between the parties appear immediately when pollsters narrow their questions to specific initiatives such as banning assault weapons or closing certain loopholes but, overall, the majority of Americans want to at least try to break this cycle of mayhem and madness. A 2021 Pew Research Center poll found broad support when it comes to red flag measures and background checks, for example. And that number includes a large percentage of gun owners and NRA members.

That support in a poll, however, does not translate into empowering Congress to actually act. Instead of turning grief into honest and productive back-and-forth on a crisis

See MASS on Next Page



Cheney lifts the rug, reveals GOP's failures

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

"We cannot just sweep this under the rug. We need to know why it happened, who did it and people need to be held accountable for it. And I'm committed to make sure that happens."

Just five days after the Jan. 6, 2021, mob invasion of our Capitol, those words were spoken, with patriotic determination, by one of Washington's most prominently placed political leaders. He was not an anti-Trump Democrat bent on partisan vengeance. He was House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the California Republican who had loyally backed President Donald Trump. But when that violent mob bashed outnumbered police, smashed their way into the U.S. Capitol – forcing McCarthy and his staff to flee their own offices – the GOP leader urged his fellow Republicans to stand firmly behind the democracy that is the heart and soul of America's exceptionalism.

Fast-forward to Thursday night: We watched a live, made-for-TV drama unlike anything ever seen in America's history. We saw the premier showing of the House Select Committee's investigation of the Jan. 6 invasion of the Capitol. It featured scenes that revealed evidence indicating that a sitting U.S. president had actually sought to overthrow his own election defeat and somehow stay in power. Yes, Donald Trump.

The crucial core of the committee's two-hour prime-time hearing was the prosecutorial presentation by McCarthy's very conservative fellow Republican, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the committee's vice chair. It seemed to be everything that McCarthy had urged almost a year and a half ago. Like a masterful prosecutor (a job she never held), Cheney built the committee's case using blocks of video evidence. What was most convincing was that it was testimony from those who were governmentally and personally closest to Trump – testimony rejecting Trump's gushing claims that the election was "rigged," that he really won.

We saw Trump's former Attorney General William Barr telling committee investigators he told Trump, in three post-election meetings, that he found "absolutely zero basis" for Trump's incessant claims of election fraud: "I made it clear I did not agree with the idea of saying the election was stolen and putting out this stuff which I told the president was bullshit."

We saw Trump's daughter, Ivanka, admitting to investigators she believed Barr: "I accepted what he was saying." (Translation: She no longer believed her dad's Big Lie.)

And we saw Trump's refusal to help his partner and vice president when the vengeful mob began chanting "Hang Mike Pence." Pence had declined Trump's arm-twisting to get him to refuse to certify the actual election results. Outside, the mob Trump urged to march to the Capitol brought with them a huge wooden gallows with a rope noose–never mind that Pence's certification decision hadn't happened yet. The Secret Service rushed Pence and his family down the Capitol steps to a secluded loading dock.

We watched videos of the mob bashing police, wanting to hang Pence, smashing the cradle of our democracy.

And we watched Trump swooning about "the love in the air – I've never seen anything like it."

Neither had we. We saw sickening yet riveting revelations of a reality that existed behind Trump's curtain. We remain outraged by our sitting president's refusal to even try to stop the mob violence that was being committed by his supporters who were all about lynching our democracy.

But as we watch the committee's dramatic videos revealing abhorrently un-American acts, one glaring question remains unanswered: Will America really give a damn? Will Trump's supporters ever care that he is lying to them? Lying about fake claims of voting machine fraud?

Here we can learn a lot from watching McCarthy's political flip-floppery. As measured by the patriotic urgency of his plea in January 2021, we might assume Thursday night's committee presentation sparked patriotic gratification deep within McCarthy's soul. But by now we know better than that.

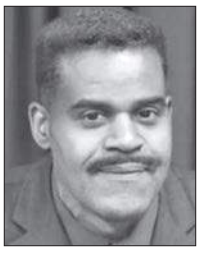
McCarthy long ago switched his patriotic commitment priorities. Now he's all about covering his aspirations to be the next House speaker. Nothing more. He flew to Mar-a-Lago for a ring kissing. His House GOP ousted Cheney from her leadership role. And he long ago reversed his silly notions that it was wrong to sweep Trump's unpatriotic conduct under rugs.

But Thursday night, Cheney, ever courageous, showed her fellow Republicans patriotic House cleaning means not only whispering truth to power – but also speaking it courageously to the people you serve. It's a concept.

"Tonight," she concluded, "I say this to my Republican colleagues who are defending the indefensible: There will come a day when Donald Trump is gone, but your dishonor will remain."

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

School shootings endanger our children, teachers and democracy



By JERALD MCNAIR
Chicago Tribune

Jerald McNair is a school administrator at South Holland School District 151.

I remember the days when the only thing students worried about in school was getting good grades, and when there was a healthy supply of candidates wanting to become teachers.

Regrettably, those days are long gone. Our K-12 educational system is dealing with enormous challenges. As it continues to confront the obstacles and unpredictability of COVID-19, we see growing skepticism among parents about the school system's ability to keep their children safe. With school shootings, including most recently in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two teachers were killed, the fear parents, students and teachers feel is evident and understandable. Unfortunately, parents feel this kind of tragedy can happen at their school or in their community.

According to the Census Bureau, home-schooling is on the rise. The number of families that decided to home-school their children doubled to 11% during the 2020-21 school year from 5.4% during the 2019-20 school year. While the pandemic contributed, concerns for children's safety go beyond a virus. U.S. parents have expressed fears about school shootings and assaults of teachers and students. It's conceivable that the home schooling of students will increase if changes are not made.

The strength and efficacy of our democracy are predicated on a public school system that affords every child the right to attend school, economic status or family wealth notwithstanding. Where would our democracy be had it not been for our school system?

School shootings are a threat to our educational system — and, therefore, to our democracy. News outlets have reported that over two decades, more than 100 students and staff members have been killed in school shootings, dating to Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, in 1999 and including Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, this past month. When you include colleges and universities, the loss of life increases.

When students are being gunned down in classrooms, change is necessary. When parents are afraid to send their children to school, change is necessary. When teachers are leaving the profession for fear of becoming the next victims, change is necessary.

School safety is not a partisan issue. It is not about public vs. private school, rich vs. poor or public school vs. school choice. Nor is it a racial issue. We all should be able to expect that our children will return home unharmed after going to school. And teachers should expect to return home to their families unharmed.

As the debate continues in Congress, and policymakers hopefully seek to find areas where they can agree, we implore them to put our country first. It is not acceptable, nor reasonable, to accept and normalize school shootings. Our democracy should not have to face these unnecessary challenges.

Why someone would shoot innocent children is an indication of that individual's compromised mental state. The easy access to certain weapons compounds the problem. Our policymakers don't have to pick either side. They can agree on both of these points. If steps are not made to improve the safety of our children, they will, in turn, suffer from mental health problems, and the cycle will continue.

Last year, more than 37% of high school students reported experiencing poor mental health, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And 44% reported feeling sad or hopeless. Mental health problems go hand in hand with behavioral problems.

If our youths continue to see peers across the country gunned down in school, why would they want to attend? Will they pay attention in school, or will they be more concerned about their safety? Will we continue to see a mass exodus of teachers leaving the profession? Will we continue to see fewer college graduates going into this field and desiring to be teachers? Then what will we do? Who will teach the next generation?

Our democracy can overcome these challenges if we work together. President Ronald Reagan once said, "There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." Our legislators must simply find areas to agree upon and move forward.

After all, the lives of children, our future generation, are at stake. They deserve better. Let's give them an opportunity to grow up and be whatever they want to be in life.

Thoughts and prayers aren't enough

By UMA MENON
Progressive Perspectives

Uma Menon is an 18-year-old author and Princeton University student from Winter Park, Florida. Her debut book, Hands for Language, was released by Mawenzi House in 2020 and her debut childrens' books are forthcoming from Candlewick Press. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

School has gotten more difficult for students in recent years. Competitive pressures have increased, college acceptance rates have gone down and inequalities between schools have risen.

And after last month, we're once again called upon to confront another concern that affects the very existence of our futures: gun violence.

Each year in Florida, where I grew up, we sat through active shooter drills just as often as we prepared for hurricanes. We watched headlines of school after school being hit by tragedy. We witnessed the construction of wire fences around our school as a superficial form of safety.

What we didn't see, however, was meaningful policy change. On May 24, there was news of yet another school shooting—this time in Uvalde, Texas—that took the lives of 19 elementary students and two teachers.

Between the time I began kindergarten in 2008 and my high school graduation in 2020, a total of 257 school shootings occurred in the United States. Two mass shootings occurred near my home, the 2016 massacre at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, my hometown, and the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

I'm in college now, studying public and international affairs at Princeton University, but I've stopped reading the news as often as I used to. It's always the same thing: an existing issue reveals itself, promises of change are made, and said change is delayed and delayed until the issue once again rears its head through an unimaginable tragedy.

Meanwhile, the issue of gun violence is as transparent as it can be—45,222 people died of gun-related injuries in the United States in 2020, more than any other year on record. On average, there is one mass shooting per day. Roughly 110 people are killed by gun violence daily in our country.

Gun violence, which the Centers for Disease Control defined as a public health crisis, has now become the top cause of death for children across the United States. And, like any other disease, it hurts the most vulnerable members of our society: women and gender minorities, LGBTQ+ people, communities of color and youth.

We need comprehensive reform that limits the circulation of assault weapons and promotes responsible gun ownership in our country. We need to raise awareness about the dangers of loose regulations that mitigates the likelihood of violence.

But if any of these changes are going to pass, we can't ignore the structural reform that is needed within our political system. Federal gun control legislation has so far failed to pass not because a majority of senators opposed it—in 2013, 54 senators from both parties voted in favor of background checks—but because of the filibuster, which requires 60 votes for a bill to become law.

Across decades and political administrations, gun violence has persisted as one of the nation's biggest issues. But gun violence is only a symptom of another issue: political inaction. That issue might hide stealthily below the surface, but it's one toward which we must target our frustration and rage.

Thoughts and prayers do not bring people back from the dead. They do not erase the trauma—physical and mental—that survivors must endure for the rest of their lives. We owe it to these individuals and to our entire country to prevent these tragedies from occurring again.

MASS

From Page 8

that literally terrorizes parents and children, we have settled on a tragically predictable chain of events: mass shooting ... thoughts and prayers ... politicizing the dialogue and demonizing your political opponent ... inaction ... repeat. And the pundits on the far right and the far left punish any member of Congress who is willing to give an inch in order to take a mile. You get punished by whatever cable news channel your constituents tune into. And, more importantly, you get punished by a candidate further to your left or to your right during the next primary, where traditionally only the more radical voters bother to show up, thus giving us more rigidly doctrine-adhering candidates heading into a general election for gerrymandered districts.

We adhere to the all-or-nothing crowd on either the left or the right, who view even the beginning of seeking compromise as a betrayal of dogma. As little children were still fighting for their lives in Texas hospitals, politicians on both sides of the aisle were already feeding their Twitter following the same old talking points, with only the dates and location needing to be updated.

Is there really no middle ground between protecting Second Amendment rights and preventing someone too young or too unstable from purchasing one or more assault weapons? Can we not strengthen our system of background checks while still licensing responsible and law-abiding gun owners? Is it really impossible to put a system in place that allows enough time for red flags to be thoroughly investigated and processed? Can't we agree that this is not a crisis of either mental health or the vast availability of mass casualty weapons, but rather a crisis of the two combined?

The question is yet again: Will this be the moment that we finally come together as a society and demand better from our elected officials on both sides of the aisle? Will this be the moment when politics is defined by courage, leadership, and a commitment to truly work toward a solution rather than offend distraught parents again and again with the usual playbook of distraction and meaningless talking points? Tragically, I don't think it is. It wasn't after Newtown. It wasn't after Parkland.

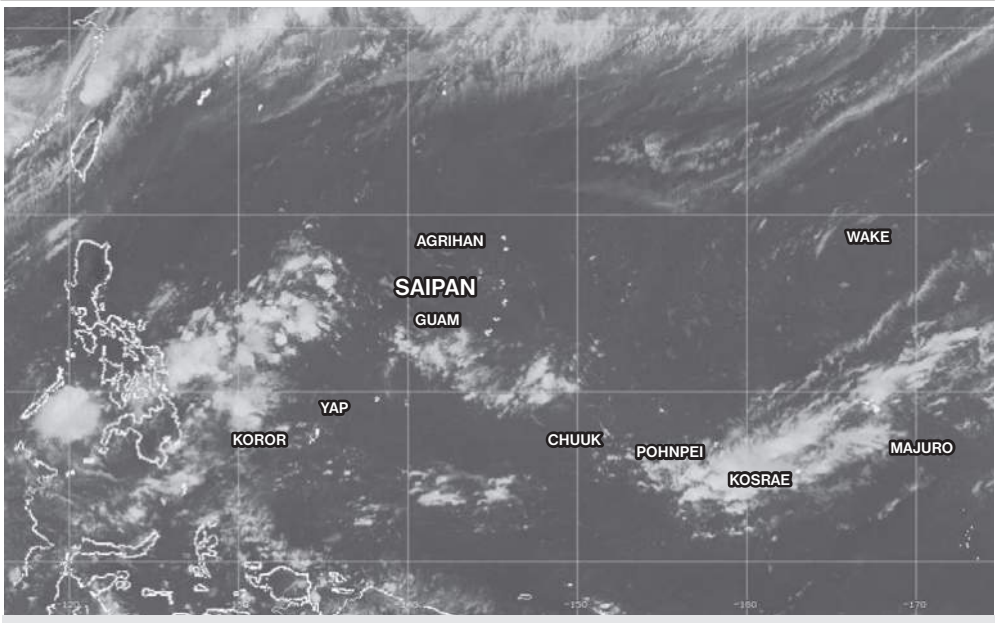
Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome. Mass shooting ... thoughts and prayers ... politicizing the dialogue and demonizing your political opponent ... inaction ... Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny, with Isolated showers. East northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.	Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. East wind 13 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly sunny,	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.
90º 78º	90º 78º	90º 78º	90º 78º	85º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:46 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler radar shows scattered showers south of Guam, which are also affecting southern Guam, and isolated showers through the rest of the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of southeast wind waves, east trade-wind swell, and north-northeast swell from a storm that moved off Japan a couple of days ago.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorm	31 / 27 °F
Palau	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26°F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudys	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:48 PM
Thursday	05:46 AM	18:48 PM
Friday	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Saturday	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Sunday	09:27 AM	18:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	06:06PM	19:47 PM
Thursday	-	07:13 PM	20:52 PM
Friday	-	08:21 PM	21:51 PM
Saturday	-	09:27 PM	22:43 PM
Sunday	-	10:28 PM	23:29 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers 16 / 12 °F
Beijing	AM Clouds/PM Sun 28 / 17 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms 29 / 26 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny 29 / 23 °F
London	Partly Cloudy 27 / 14 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny 28 / 17 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms 34 / 26 °F
Melbourne	Light Rain 12 / 10 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny 30 / 27 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny 27 / 19 °F
Osaka	Showers 24 / 20 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy 31 / 16 °F
Busan	AM Clouds/PM Sun 24 / 20 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny 32 / 20 °F
Salem	PM Thunderstorms 35 / 23 °F
San Francisco	Sunny 21 / 11°F
Seoul	Showers 24 / 16 °F
Tokyo	Rain 19 / 76 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy 31 / 21 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
02:01 AM	Low Tide	1.51
06:51 AM	High Tide	2.23
2:24 PM	Low Tide	-0.54
9:43 PM	High Tide	2.22

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

OIA's $431,805 support air transportation in Western Pacific

» Funds will update small aircraft avionics, rebuild engines, and purchase spare parts and equipment for emergency patient transport

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $431,805 in fiscal year 2022 Technical Assistance Program funding to maintain and update small aircraft engine avionics and engines used for air transportation services between Guam, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, especially to the smaller islands where no regular air or sea transportation is available. The funding will also purchase spare parts and equipment for emergency patient transport.

"We are pleased to support the people and families in the smaller islands of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia who have less access and whose economy and livelihoods rely on these critical transportation services," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "The small aircraft in question provide passenger and cargo transport, emergency medivac for COVID-19 patients and other health-related emergencies, disaster relief readiness, general surveillance against illegal activities in the [exclusive economic zones], and search and rescue efforts, all critical to small island nations with large exclusive economic zones in the greater Western Pacific."

Nakoa

The Pacific Mission Aviation is a non-profit 501(c) non-profit organization that provides air transportation services to several smaller islands in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau and has been providing air-transportation to the Micronesia region now for nearly 50 years. Under what the PMA calls Project HOPE, or Helping Our Pacific Economy, they coordinate closely with local governments and U.S. federal partners in the region to provide air transportation, emergency services, surveillance, and search and rescue support to the region. For more information, visit pmapacific.org. ***(OIA)***

Child care providers and directors attend CCDF, QRIS orientation

Sixteen child care providers and directors from Saipan, and one from Tinian, attend a remote orientation conducted by Evergreen Learning last June 9, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixteen child care providers and directors from Saipan, and one from Tinian, attended a remote orientation last June 9, 2022, on the Child Care and Development Fund Program, Quality Rating Scale and Improvement System and Coaching. The orientation took one hour and 30 minutes and was conducted by Evergreen Learning coaches Erlaine DLG Evangelista and Russelle Mae Ignacio.

The QRIS in the CNMI is called Reach Higher, CNMI. QRIS is a way to "assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education settings." This is similar to the ratings restaurants receive based on how they are rated during inspections, or how a hotel rates their quality and services using a star system (i.e., five-star hotel, etc.) The QRIS is a rating system using a star level rating that communicates the quality of a child care program to families. The higher the star, the better-quality program the daycare center is.

The CCDF orientation is mandatory for all certified CCDF centers and must be attended by the program director to meet renewal requirements. The QRIS and coaching orientation are required for all new providers/teachers and directors to meet one of the indicators in Star Level 1. In addition, these orientations provide updates on the CCDF requirements, providers/teachers' and directors' responsibilities when it comes to technical assistance or coaching, documents to prepare before each program will be verified, and program incentives and reimbursement when they reach a certain star level. At the end of the presentation, they are encouraged to reach out to Evergreen Learning coaches for any questions or clarifications regarding the orientation and to request TA to help programs meet the CCDF and QRIS requirements. ***(PR))***

2022 Taste of the Marianas contest registration open

The Marianas Visitors Authority is now accepting registrants for contests at the 23rd Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden. Contestants may register in person at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan for: Kadun Pika Cooking Contest on June 18, Eskabeche Coooking Contest on June 19, and Sukiyaki Eating Contest on June 25. For more information, visit the MVA office or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarians.com or 664-3200. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - SAIPAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/OUT-PATIENT PHARMACY-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"Pharmacy Department Drive-thru Renovation & Improvements"
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring & Construction)
For CHCC Hospital/Pharmacy Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner Vidal J.N. Fitial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF BERNADITA ILAL DAWE, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0131 CV NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Date: Thurs, July 14, 2022 Time: 10:00 A.M. Judge: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE BERNADITA ILAL DAWE OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Vidal Joseph Nekaifes Fitial** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Bernadita Ilal Dawe, the deceased. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law**, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com
Attorney for Petitioner Vidal J.N. Fitial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF GAUDENCIA ILAL SABLAN, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0132 CV NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Date: Thurs, July 14, 2022 Time: 10:00 A.M. Judge: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE GAUDENCIA ILAL SABLAN OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Vidal Joseph Nekaifes Fitial** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Gaudencia Ilal Sablan, the deceased. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2022.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUCEMENT

POSITION TITLE:
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATUS:
PERMANENT-EXEMPT
SUPERVISED BY:
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POSITION(S) SUPERVISED:
ALL EMPLOYEES

OPEN DATE: JUNE 3, 2022
CLOSE DATE: JUNE 17, 2022

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CCA ensuring quality services, advocacy, solid financials, community education, public relations, and fundraising. The Executive Director works closely with the seven members of the Board of Directors and assists both board and CCA committees as needed. The Executive Director assumes the primary leadership role for the CCA

HOW TO APPLY:
You may email your resume to Ms. Nora S. Fejeran, Search Committee Chair, at norasablan@gmail.com or submit to the Commonwealth Cancer Association Office at Gualo Rai Plaza Building Located along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you would Like more information, please call our office at +1 (670) 682-0050

This JVA is being supported in whole or in part by CNMI Award Number: CNMI 22008, awarded to the Commonwealth Cancer Association by the CNMI Department of Finance.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
(CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-018	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position) RE-ANNOUNCEMENT	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $65,000.00 per annum	June 6, 2022	Until Filled
2022-019	CDBG-DR Project Supervisor (1-Position) RE-ANNOUNCEMENT	UNGRADED $35,000.00 to $45,000.00 per annum	June 6, 2022	Until Filled

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Business

S&P 500 is in bear market

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street is back in the claws of a bear market as worries about inflation and higher interest rates overwhelm investors.

The Federal Reserve has signaled it will aggressively raise interest rates to try to control inflation, which is the highest in decades. Throw in the war in Ukraine and a slowdown in China's economy, and investors have been forced to reconsider what they're willing to pay for a wide range of stocks, from high-flying tech companies to traditional automakers. Big swings have become commonplace and Monday was no exception.

The last bear market happened just two years ago, but this is still a first for those investors that got their start trading on their phones during the pandemic. Thanks in large part to extraordinary actions by the Federal Reserve, stocks have for years seemed to go largely in only one direction: up. But the "buy the dip" rallying cry popular after every market slide has grown more fainter—a recent rebound in stock prices was wiped out by a furious bout of selling over the past four days.

A bear market is a term used by Wall Street when an index like the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or even an individual stock, has fallen 20% or more from a recent high for a sustained period of time.

Why use a bear to represent a market slump? Bears hibernate, so bears represent a market that's retreating, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA. In contrast, Wall Street's nickname for a surging stock market is a bull market, because bulls charge, Stovall said.

The S&P 500, Wall Street's main barometer of health, slid 3.9% Monday to 3,749. That's nearly 22% below the high set on Jan. 3. The Nasdaq is already in a bear market, down 32.7% from its peak of 16,057.44 on Nov. 19. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is more than 17% below its most-recent peak.

The most recent bear market for the S&P 500 ran from February 19, 2020 through March 23, 2020. The index fell 34% in that one-month period. It's the shortest bear market ever.

Premixed Jack and Coke going on sale

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AP

This image provided courtesy of Brown-Forman Corporation and The Coca-Cola Company shows a canned Jack and Coke.

It's a Jack and Coke with no bartender required.

Coca-Cola Co. said Monday it's partnering with Brown-Forman Corp., the maker of Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey, to sell premixed cocktails. The canned Jack and Coke will be sold globally after a launch in Mexico late this year. A zero-sugar version will also be available.

"This relationship brings together two classic American icons to deliver consumers a taste experience they love in a way that is consistent, convenient, and portable," said Brown-Forman President and CEO Lawson Whiting.

The move comes amid strong global sales of of ready-to-drink alcoholic blends, including hard seltzers like White Claw. Global consumption of ready-to-drink beverages jumped 26% in 2020 and 14% last year, according to IWSR Drinks Market Analysis, an alcohol market research firm. For comparison, global consumption of all alcohols was up 3%.

Louisville, Kentucky-based Brown-Forman has been making ready-to-drink cocktails since 1994, when it launched spiked lemonade, cola and apple juice in Australia.

Atlanta-based Coca-Cola, by contrast, has been slower to add alcoholic drinks to its portfolio of 200 brands ever since selling off a California winery it owned in the early 1980s.

Coke launched Lemon-Dou, its first ready-to-drink alcoholic beverage, in 2018 in Japan. More recently, it has launched Topo Chico Hard Seltzer, Simply Spiked Lemonade and Fresca Mixed.

"We are strategically experimenting and learning in alcohol," said Khalil Younes, Coke's president of emerging categories. "We are excited about the opportunities, but we also know it will require effort and patience."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bitcoin plunges as major crypto lender halts operations

NEW YORK (AP)—The price of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies plummeted Monday after a major cryptocurrency lender effectively failed and halted all withdrawals from its platform, citing "extreme market conditions." It's the latest high-profile collapse of a pillar of the cryptocurrency industry. These meltdowns have erased tens of billions of dollars of investors' assets and spurred urgent calls to regulate the freewheeling industry. Bitcoin was trading at roughly $22,400 late Monday, down more than 16% in the past day. Ethereum, another widely followed cryptocurrency, was down roughly 17%. Investors have been selling riskier assets such as digital currencies and technology stocks as the Federal Reserve raises interest rates to combat high inflation. On Sunday, the cryptocurrency lending platform Celsius Network announced that it was pausing all withdrawals and transfers between accounts in order to "honor, over time, withdrawal obligations."

Thieves make off with 20 freight containers at Mexican port

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Thieves broke into a freight storage area at the Pacific coast seaport of Manzanillo and stole 20 freight containers loaded with partly refined gold and silver ore and television sets, the Mexican Employers Federation said Monday. José Medina Mora, president of the federation, said the large-scale robbery was a sign of rising crime in Mexico. "There is a growing lack of safety, and this is a sign of what is happening in the country and it requieres that authorities take action," Medina Mora said. The state of Colima, where Manzanillo is, has not officially commented on the June 5 robbery. But Horacio Duarte, the head of Mexico's customs service, confirmed the robbery and said organized crime was involved. "This was a very serious organized crime operation," Duarte said.

Nation

Yellowstone floods wipe out roads, bridges, strand people

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE VIA AP

In this photo provided by the National Park Service, is high water in the Gardiner River along the North Entrance to Yellowstone National Park in Montana, that washed out part of a road on Monday, June 13, 2022.

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Massive floodwaters ravaged Yellowstone National Park and nearby communities Monday, washing out roads and bridges, cutting off electricity and forcing visitors to evacuate parts of the iconic park at the height of summer tourist season.

All entrances to Yellowstone were closed due to the deluge, caused by heavy rains and melting snowpack, while park officials ushered tourists out of the most affected areas.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, though dozens of stranded campers had to be rescued by raft in south-central Montana. Authorities also said they would be assessing a potential "loss of homes and structures" in Montana's Stillwater County.

Elsewhere, some of the worst damage happened in the northern part of the Yellowstone and the park's gateway communities in southern Montana. National Park Service photos of northern Yellowstone showed a landslide, a bridge washed out over a creek, and roads badly undercut by churning floodwaters of the Gardner and Lamar rivers.

The flooding cut off road access to Gardiner, Montana, a town of about 900 people near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Gardner rivers, just outside Yellowstone's busy North Entrance.

At a cabin in Gardiner, visitor Parker Manning of Terra Haute, Indiana, got an up-close view of the water rising and the river bank sloughing off in the raging Yellowstone River floodwaters just outside his door.

"We started seeing entire trees floating down the river, debris," Manning told The Associated Press. "Saw one crazy single kayaker coming down through, which was kind of insane."

The Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs crested at 13.88 feet (4.2 meters) Monday, higher than the previous record of 11.5 feet (3.5 meters) set in 1918, according the the National Weather Service.

'Trump detached from reality in defeat'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump's closest campaign advisers, top government officials and even his family were dismantling his false claims of 2020 election fraud ahead of Jan. 6, but the defeated president seemed "detached from reality" and kept clinging to outlandish theories to stay in power, the committee investigating the Capitol attack was told Monday.

With gripping testimony, the panel is laying out in step-by-step fashion how Trump ignored his own campaign team's data as one state after another flipped to Joe Biden, and instead latched on to conspiracy theories, court cases and his own declarations of victory rather than having to admit defeat.

Trump's "big lie" of election fraud escalated and transformed into marching orders that summoned supporters to Washington and then sent them to the Capitol on Jan. 6 to block Biden's victory.

"He's become detached from reality if he really believes this stuff," former Attorney General William Barr testified in his interview with the committee.

Barr called the voting fraud claims "bull——," "bogus" and "idiotic," and resigned in the aftermath. "I didn't want to be a part of it."

The House 1/6 committee spent the morning hearing delving into Trump's claims of election fraud and the countless ways those around him tried to convince the defeated Republican president they were not true, and he had simply lost the election.

The witnesses Monday, mostly Republicans and many testifying in prerecorded videos, described in blunt terms and sometimes exasperated detail how Trump refused to take the advice of those closest to him, including his family members. As the people around him splintered into a "team normal" headed by former campaign manager Bill Stepien and others led by Trump confidant Rudy Giuliani, the president chose his side.

On election night, Stepien said, Trump was "growing increasingly unhappy" and refusing to accept the grim outlook for his presidency.

Son-in-law Jared Kushner tried to steer Trump away from Giuliani and his far-flung theories of voter fraud. The president would have none of it.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine officials, governor clash over face mask policy

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials warned Monday that people can face arrest if they defy a presidential order to wear face masks in public to protect against the coronavirus even in a province where the governor has declared they are optional. Officials asked Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia of central Cebu province to cooperate with President Rodrigo Duterte's order, but she insisted Monday that her decision to allow people to decide whether to wear masks in public in her province has legal grounds because provincial officials can decide on health issues. "This is a major policy that came from the mouth of our president himself," Interior Undersecretary Epimaco Densing III said on state-run TV, adding that the country remains under a national public health emergency despite the easing of the outbreak. Open defiance of such orders could lead to arrests, Densing said. He added that officials will try to convince Garcia to follow Duterte's order.

North Korea plans crackdown as Kim pushes for internal unity

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his top deputies have pushed for a crackdown on officials who abuse their power and commit other "unsound and non-revolutionary acts," state media reported Monday, as Kim seeks greater internal unity to overcome a COVID-19 outbreak and economic difficulties. It wasn't clear what specific acts were mentioned at the ruling Workers' Party meeting on Sunday. But possible state crackdowns on such alleged acts could be an attempt to solidify Kim's control of his people and get them to rally behind his leadership in the face of the domestic hardships, some observers say. Kim and other senior party secretaries discussed "waging a more intensive struggle against unsound and non-revolutionary acts including abuse of power and bureaucratism revealed among some party officials," the official Korean Central News Agency said.

Cambodian court convicts lawyer, dozens of others of treason

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A Cambodian American lawyer and dozens of members of a now-dissolved opposition party were convicted of treason Tuesday in a trial that was the latest move to tame all opposition to the long-running rule of Prime Minister Hun Sen. Lawyer Theary Seng and most of the other defendants had been charged over a failed attempt by the leader of the defunct Cambodia National Rescue Party to return from exile in 2019. Cambodian authorities blocked Sam Rainsy's return and alleged the 60 defendants were involved in organizing his trip, which Theary Seng and the others have denied. Cambodian courts are widely believed to be under the influence of Hun Sen, whose authoritarian style of rule has kept him in power for 37 years. The Cambodia National Rescue Party was his party's biggest rival before it was disbanded by a court ruling just ahead of national elections in 2018 that resulted in a clean sweep by Hun Sen's Cambodia People's Party.

Germany slips behind China as top importer of Russian energy

BERLIN (AP)—China has overtaken Germany as the biggest buyer of Russian energy exports since the start of the war in Ukraine, an independent research group said Monday. The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said Russia received about 93 billion euros ($97 billion) in revenue for the sale of oil, natural gas and coal since Feb. 24, when it invaded Ukraine. About 61% of the fossil fuels worth some 57 billion euros was exported to the European Union during the conflict's first 100 days, the Helsinki-based group said. That included 12.1 billion euros worth of exports to Germany, 7.8 billion euros each to Italy and the Netherlands, and 4.4 billion euros to Poland, the group said. Germany, which was the biggest importer of Russian fossil fuels during the first two months of the war, slipped to second place behind China, which has purchased some 12.6 billion euros worth of energy from Moscow.

Virus cluster at nightclub sets off new Beijing clampdown

BEIJING (AP)—China's capital has put school back online in one of its major districts amid a new COVID-19 outbreak linked to a nightclub, while life has yet to return to normal in Shanghai despite the lifting of a more than two-month-long lockdown. China has stuck to its "zero-COVID" policy requiring mass testing, quarantines and the sequestering of anyone who has come into contact with an infected person in concentrated locations where hygiene is generally poor. A total of 228 cases have been linked to the Heaven Supermarket club in the downtown Workers Stadium nightlife area after an infected person visited there Thursday. Of those, 180 were customers, four were staff and 44 were people with whom customers had later contact. The entire area, along with the adjacent Sanlitun shopping and dining complex, was shut down until further notice. The outbreak prompted authorities in the sprawling Chaoyang district to put school back online, with the exception of students taking middle and high school placement exams. Sports gatherings in the city have also been put on hold.

Japan philanthropic group begins fund raising for Ukrainians

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese foundation announced Monday it is launching a fundraising drive to provide more than 1,200 Ukrainian evacuees in Japan with additional financial support for language studies and other needs. Jumpei Sasakawa, executive director of the Nippon Foundation, said it aims to raise 1 billion yen ($7.4 million) through cooperation with the U.S. and Ukrainian ambassadors. The foundation has already pledged 5 billion yen ($37 million) for the transportation and living costs of Ukrainian evacuees. Japan has so far accepted more than 1,200 war-displaced Ukrainians since Russia invaded in late February. Sasakawa said he was approached by U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, who asked him to enable ordinary Japanese to help support Ukrainian evacuees.

US Defense Secretary Austin meets Thai leader to boost ties

BANGKOK (AP)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin met with Thailand's prime minister on Monday as part of an effort to strengthen what Austin says is Washington's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is also defense minister, also met Austin last month in Washington. Thailand and the United States are longtime military allies, despite a cooling of relations after the 2014 military coup that brought former army commander Prayuth to power. Monday's visit was Austin's first to Thailand as defense secretary. A U.S. Defense Department statement issued after the meeting said Austin and Prayuth "shared perspectives on regional security issues, and discussed opportunities to strengthen the U.S.-Thai alliance."

World

55 people are killed in latest attack in north Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Gunmen killed at least 55 people over the weekend in northern Burkina Faso, authorities said Monday, the latest attack in the West African country where mounting violence is blamed on Islamic extremists.

Suspected militants targeted civilians in Seytenga in Seno province, government spokesman Wendkouni Joel Lionel Bilgo said at a news conference. While the government put the official toll at 55, others put the figure far higher.

Attacks linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are soaring in Burkina Faso, particularly in the north. Jihadists killed at least 160 people in an attack in the town of Solhan in June 2021.

In January, mutinous soldiers ousted the democratically elected president, promising to secure the nation, but violence has only increased. The government is asking people to remain united in the fight against the insurgents.

While no group claimed the weekend attack, conflict analysts say it was likely carried out by the Islamic State group.

"In recent weeks, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara have been the most aggressive group, notably in Seno and Oudalan provinces. In addition to attacks against security forces, civilians have also been targeted," said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Moroccan-based organization focused on economics and policy.

Ukraine forest is site of mass grave

Members of an extraction crew work during an exhumation at a mass grave near Bucha, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, June 13, 2022. AP

BUCHA, Ukraine (AP) — The lush green beauty of a pine forest with singing birds contrasted with the violent deaths of newly discovered victims of Russia's war in Ukraine, as workers exhumed bodies from another mass grave near the town of Bucha on Kyiv's outskirts.

The hands of several victims were tied behind their backs. The gruesome work of digging up the remains coincided with the Ukrainian police chief's report that authorities have opened criminal investigations into the killings of more than 12,000 people since Russia' invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Workers wearing white hazmat suits and masks used shovels to exhume bodies from the soil of the forest, marking each section with small yellow numbered signs on the ground. The bodies, covered in cloth and dirt, attracted flies.

"Shots to the knees tell us that people were tortured," Andriy Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police, said at the scene. "The hands tied behind the back with tape say that people had been held (hostage) for a long time and (enemy forces) tried to get any information from them."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran media: Scores injured in explosion at chemical factory

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An explosion at a chemical factory in southern Iran injured scores of people, most of them lightly, the country's state TV reported Tuesday. The report said a leak from an ammonium tank caused the blast on Monday evening in the southern city of Firouzabad in Fars province, located about 770 kilometers (480 miles) south of the capital, Tehran. Firemen were able to quickly extinguish the blaze, the report added. According to the chief of the provincial health department, Vahid Hosseini, out of 133 injured who were taken to local hospitals, mostly factory workers, 114 were later released after treatment.

Canadian PM Trudeau tests positive for COVID a second time

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has tested positive for COVID-19 for the second time and just days after he met in person with U.S. President Joe Biden. The announcement came in a tweet Monday in which he urged everyone to get vaccinated. Trudeau said he feels OK and said that's because he's been vaccinated. The positive test comes after he met with U.S. President Joe Biden and other leaders at the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. Biden took a "family photo" with Trudeau on Friday and met with him on Thursday. Trudeau also tested positive in January. The prime minister also had isolated at home in the early months of the pandemic after his wife tested positive.

UN, elder: Week of tribal clashes in Sudan's Darfur kill 100

CAIRO (AP)—Tribal clashes over the past week in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur have killed around 100 people, the U.N. refugee agency and a tribal elder said Monday, the latest surge in violence in the restive region. Toby Harward, a coordinator with the UNHCR, said the fighting grew out of a land dispute between Arab and African tribes in the town of Kulbus in West Darfur province. Local Arab militias then attacked multiple villages in the area, forcing thousands of people to flee, he said. Abkar al-Toum, a tribal leader in the town, said the dead included at least 62 bodies found burned after militias set more than 20 villages on fire. He said many people were still unaccounted for. He claimed the attackers gained control of water resources, aggravating the humanitarian situation in the area. He did not elaborate.

Good Housekeeping

Charcoal or gas grill? Answers to a burning question

By PAUL POGUE
ANGIE'S LIST

Among outdoor grilling fans, no rivalry burns hotter. Certain rivalries last forever—think Coke vs. Pepsi or Apple vs. Windows—and, now, gas grills vs. charcoal grills.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Among outdoor grilling fans, no rivalry burns hotter.

Certain rivalries last forever—think Coke vs. Pepsi or Apple vs. Windows—and, now, gas grills vs. charcoal grills.

We asked some seasoned grilling experts to weigh in on this searing question as the spring/summer grilling season arrives.

Gas grills bring convenience

Aaron Nelson, owner of Quality Grill Service in Indianapolis, says grills powered by gas or propane turn on faster and offer more options and control than comparable charcoal grills.

"You can get your food on the grill in 10 minutes, you don't have to keep adding coals, and you can moderate your heat," he says. "You can cook a steak, fish, chicken and veggies at the same time on a gas grill. Someone who's really savvy with a grill and wants to do things like smoking meat might gravitate to a charcoal grill, but the gas grill offers more options to cook quickly and conveniently."

Charcoal wins the flavor competition

Nonetheless, Nelson, who primarily works on gas grills, says many grillers swear by the intangible element that charcoal adds to the barbecue experience.

"You're using smoke-heat, so your meats are going to have a little more flavor," he says. "The gas grill industry has some really neat designs to mimic the smoky feel, and a seasoned grill brings some of that flavor, but you can never fully mimic what charcoal-smoked meat will taste like."

Jeremy Leyva, sales associate at the All American Grill Store in Jacksonville, Fla., says the two types draw in different fandoms, especially given the do-it-yourself, wing-it-on-the-fly creativity charcoal offers.

"Gas fans like the ease of use and not having to tinker," he says. "Diehard charcoal fans know they'll get a different flavor. A lot of people who like to work with their hands or tinker tend to lean toward the charcoal."

Check the fuel differences

Nelson says gas grills consume less fuel and thus cost less. At a cost of about $20 per refill, a single propane tank will last for more than 20 grillings, he says. "You're looking at less than a dollar per cooking to feed your whole family," Nelson says. "A bag of charcoal runs between $6 and $10, and it can only be used once.

However, Leyva points out that modern, ceramic charcoal grills cook with more than just the blackened charcoal briquettes most people recognize from years of outdoor entertaining. "Lump" charcoal offers a high-heat, all-natural format.

"It's all hickory or oak, with no accelerants," he says. "You get a better taste from it, and it tends to last longer, because unlike charcoal briquettes, you can relight it next time." He says a 20-pound bag costs about $24.

Look for the warranty

No matter which kind of grill you purchase, pay close attention to the warranty to ensure many years of happy barbecues.

"You can buy a grill for a couple of hundred bucks at a big-box store, but it'll be junk in three years," Nelson says. "The good companies like Weber or Broilmaster offer strong warranties so this will be the last grill you ever buy. You'll be spending around $800 or $900 for a portable Weber grill, but the 25-year warranty makes it the best value for your dollar."

Leyva says people can pay as little as a few hundred dollars for a charcoal grill, but he advises customers to go with a name brand with a solid warranty, which tends to cost between $800 and $1,200.

"Pay attention to the thickness of the stainless steel and the extent to which the company backs the warranty," he says.

Paul Pogue is a reporter at www.angieslist.com, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

Dryer vent cleaning prevents fires, improves efficiency

By BRENT GLASGOW
ANGIE'S LIST

What you can't see can hurt your wallet, or worse.

Some of the biggest threats and money sieves at home are things you can't see, like your clothes dryer vent.

The easily neglected piping, which in larger homes can exceed 40 feet, often goes ignored for years, sometimes decades. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, that inattention causes more than 15,000 fires annually.

"A lot of people don't understand how bad the problem can be," says Scott Smedstad, owner of Arizona Air Duct Cleaning in suburban Phoenix. "A lot have never had it done."

According to Glen Mayfield, owner of Dryer Vent Wizard of Central Indiana, if your dryer takes more than 40 minutes for a load, feels hot to the touch while running or collects large amounts of lint during operation, you're probably ready for a cleaning.

If you want to clean your dryer vent on your own, there's equipment available, including brush kits that cost anywhere from $15 to over $50 based on length and quality.

Both Smedstad and Mayfield say results vary.

"Many do it successfully, but (the brushes) can break or disengage, so you have to be careful to make sure it works properly and it doesn't get stuck," Mayfield says. "I've retrieved a lot of them."

Smedstad has also seen good intentions go bad.

"Rarely is someone going to have enough or the right equipment to do it on their own," Smedstad says.

The longer the ventilation pipe, and the more bends and buildup it has, the more difficult the job. Professionals like Smedstad and Mayfield use a sturdy snake or power brush to release clogs, along with a strong vacuum to remove the impediments.

Along with substandard brushes, Mayfield and Smedstad shudder at another do-it-yourself tactic: using a leaf blower to clear the vent from the inside.

"You can do that if it's thoroughly cleaned first, but most people blow it and plug it up 10 times worse," Smedstad says. "Sometimes it's packed in so bad people have to cut the ceiling out to take the pipe apart. It isn't a real good idea."

Mayfield agrees.

"Lint is moist, and a blower can't clean it out," he says. "It's like a snowball, and the more it rolls the bigger it gets."

Lint isn't the only enemy, as birds are a common infiltrator. Entering from the outside, they love building nests in the closed, warm space.

"They're a huge problem," Mayfield says. "Sometimes they'll peck the vent cover until they can get it open, and they can get in even if it's in good shape. We've found them six and eight feet deep into the vent."

How much does dryer vent cleaning cost?

Smedstad's average dryer vent cleaning costs around $95, while Mayfield charges $125 to $175, depending on the job.

The service saves customers money both short- and long-term. Mayfield cites industry studies that say clogged vents can add $18 to $25 to your monthly energy bill. Also, since clogged vents render dryers ineffective, it isn't uncommon for a homeowner to scrap a unit because they think it's shot.

"They'll go out and buy a new one, have the same problem and then call us," Mayfield says. "Then they'll say, 'Oh, my gosh, I got a new one and didn't even need it.'"

Brent Glasgow is a reporter at www.AngiesList.com , a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
(C) 2022 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ Add a small bit of boiling water to a glass of iced tea to clear it up if it is cloudy. You can do this to a pitcher just before serving.

■ If you're traveling with pets, you know you'll need to bring something for them to drink out of. If you have ice in a container, they can lick the ice to stay hydrated, but it doesn't slosh around or spill easily.

■ "Cutting corn off the cob can be tricky business, but you only need to recruit the right equipment. The next time you're making corn for dinner, grab a Bundt pan. The corn cob gets set upright in the center, and when you cut down, the kernels fall right into the pan on all sides." -- A.S. in Texas

■ "If you have trouble holding your cat still to clip its claws, sneak up while it's asleep. You might get only a couple done before your cat catches on and wriggles away, but you'll get there." -- P.L. in Oklahoma (Slow and steady wins the race, P.L. Your tip works great for babies, too! -- JoAnn)

■ Skunk run-in? Try this mix before you buy pricey de-stink shampoos at the pet store. Mix a quart of 3% peroxide, a teaspoon or two of dish soap, 1/4 cup of baking soda and quart of room-temperature water. Apply to pet, and work deeply into the fur. Massage in for five minutes, and rinse thoroughly.

■ Boiling potatoes? Plants love starch. Let your cooking water cool, then use it to water the plants in your garden.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Life & Style

United Arab Emirates bans Pixar's 'Lightyear' from showing

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The United Arab Emirates on Monday banned the upcoming Pixar animated feature "Lightyear" from showing in movie theaters after its inclusion of a kiss between two lesbian characters.

The decision by the UAE comes as Malaysia also reportedly will ban the film, raising the possibility other Muslim-majority nations could follow suit on one of Disney's biggest animated films of the year as the film industry comes out of the depths of the coronavirus pandemic.

AP

This image released by Disney/Pixar shows character Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Chris Evans, left, and Alisha Hawthorne, voiced by Uzo Aduba, in a scene from the animated film "Lightyear," releasing June 17.

The Emirates, home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, announced through its Media Regulatory Office of the country's Ministry of Youth and Culture that the film would not be opening in the country this Thursday.

The film "is not licensed for public screening in all cinemas in the UAE, due to its violation of the country's media content standards," the office said in a tweet. "The office confirms that all films screened in cinemas across the country are subject to follow-up and evaluation before the date of screening to the public, to ensure the safety of the circulated content according to the appropriate age classification."

The office did not elaborate on the tweet and did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press. The tweet included an image of the film's poster, with the profile image of its main character Buzz Lightyear with a "no" symbol over it in red.

Movie theaters in the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, had already advertised showtimes for the film. But over the weekend, a social media campaign with the Arabic hashtag "Ban Showing Lightyear in the Emirates," caught the attention of conservative Emiratis. They described showing a lesbian couple on screen as being against their culture and religion.

The movie, with actor Chris Evans voicing the inspiration for the Buzz Lightyear action figure from the "Toy Story" films, includes a female character voiced by actress Uzo Aduba kissing her female partner.

The UAE, many other countries in the wider Mideast, is a Muslim-led nation that criminalizes same-sex relationships. The U.S. State Department warns that Islamic, or Shariah, law in the UAE can include the death penalty for same-sex conduct, while Dubai can levy a 10-year prison sentence and Abu Dhabi allows for up to 14 years.

However, such prosecutions are rarely reported and LGBTQ individuals do live in the skyscraper-studded city-state of Dubai, home to the long-haul carrier Emirates.

The $200 million "Lightyear" is expected to be a major draw for Disney, with analysts estimating it could gross over $100 million in its first weekend.

Studios have allowed censors to cut films in global distribution for content in the past, including in the Mideast market. Recently, Disney has faced protests from activists and its own staff over what they described as CEO Bob Chapek's slow response in publicly criticizing Florida legislation that opponents dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in late March signed the bill, which forbids instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade.

The moment had been earlier cut from the film but was restored after Pixar employees protested Disney's response to Florida's bill.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Amber Heard says she doesn't blame jury in Depp libel case

NEW YORK (AP)—Amber Heard says she doesn't blame the jury that awarded Johnny Depp more than $10 million after a contentious six-week libel trial in her first post-verdict interview. "I don't blame them," Heard told "Today" co-host Savannah Guthrie in an interview clip aired Monday on NBC. "I actually understand. He's a beloved character and people feel they know him. He's a fantastic actor." "Today" plans to air more of its interview with Heard on Tuesday and Wednesday. The interview is airing nearly two weeks after the verdict, which also saw Heard awarded $2 million over her claim that one of Depp's attorneys defamed her. Depp sued Heard for libel in Virginia over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers said he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

No satisfaction: Jagger has COVID, Rolling Stones gig off

AMSTERDAM (AP)—The Rolling Stones canceled their concert in Amsterdam on Monday, just hours before it was due to start after lead singer Mick Jagger tested positive for COVID-19. The band announced the cancelation in a statement, saying the 78-year-old Jagger tested positive "after experiencing symptoms of COVID upon arrival at the stadium" on the outskirts of Amsterdam. There were no further details about his condition. "The Rolling Stones are deeply sorry for tonight's postponement, but the safety of the audience, fellow musicians and the touring crew has to take priority," the statement said, adding that the show would be rescheduled and tickets for the concert at Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena would be honored for the new date. Some fans were already in the stadium when it was announced that the show had been scrapped. The veteran rockers are touring Europe with a show called SIXTY to mark six decades together. Their last show was at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium on June 9. The next scheduled concert is in Bern, Switzerland, on June 17.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs to receive lifetime honor at BET Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs built one of hip-hop's biggest empires, blazing a trail with his own music television network and fashion line, and now his decorated career has earned him one of the highest honors at the BET Awards this month. Combs will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award on June 26, the network announced Monday. He is the founder of Bad Boy Records and a three-time Grammy winner who has worked with a slew of top-tier artists including Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Usher, Lil Kim, Faith Evans and 112. The music mogul created the fashion clothing line called Sean John, launched the Revolt TV with a focus on music and has his own vodka. He' also produced the reality show "Making the Band" for MTV. "Diddy has always been a pioneering force in our community, breaking barriers, achieving unprecedented heights, blazing new trails, and, in so doing, raising the bar for all of us," BET CEO Scott Mills said in a statement. "His virtuosity is matched only by his range—from music to media, culture, business and philanthropy—Diddy has exemplified Black excellence."

Lonely widow mulls offer from younger acquaintance

DEAR ABBY: My husband died recently. I have been approached by a much younger man for a sexual relationship. I want to, but I feel he is too young. I'm 61, and he's 37, the same age as my son. We have been friends for years, and I am unsure if I should change the relationship. I see no future in it except occasional sex. Should I drop it or consider the possibilities?

THINKING ABOUT IT IN OHIO

DEAR THINKING: Before dropping it, carefully consider the "possibilities." At 37, this person is not a kid, he's an adult. Something like this happened in my family years ago. A close friend of a relative's son announced he had fallen in love with her. It took her a little while to adjust her thinking, but the result was a very happy marriage.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Rebecca" is in her early 40s and has been blind for more than 20 years. She has low self-esteem and gets depressed when she can't do things. Right now she wants to babysit a 1-year-old boy in our family by herself. Rebecca's husband is legally blind, closets himself in his home office all day and ignores everything around him.

Although my sister is confident she could take care of the baby, the boy's parents and I are not comfortable with the idea. Rebecca often runs into things in her own house, can't find something she has dropped—and sometimes even has difficulty understanding what is going on around her.

When we mention these problems or the fact that the baby is fast and rambunctious, she gets angry and teary-eyed and won't listen to reason. How can we help her to understand we can't leave the baby alone with her?

OUT OF THE QUESTION

DEAR OUT: You have already tried to get through to someone who refuses to accept reality. There is no reason why Rebecca can't "assist" in babysitting the child, but she should not attempt to do it alone. It's important that you and the child's parents stick to your guns. Do what is best for the little one. And if that means making other arrangements for a babysitter, so be it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently received a text from my nephew asking that I cosign on a loan for a car. Abby, I am estranged from this person. I have met him only a handful of times, and I haven't seen him in years. I was, as you can imagine, put off by his request.

I responded that I couldn't cosign because it would make me legally responsible for the debt. My entitled nephew's response was dead silence, not an "I understand," not an "OK, sorry." Nothing! I never heard from him again. Am I wrong for feeling offended that he asked?

TOO SMART FOR THAT

DEAR TOO SMART: Stop wasting your time preoccupying yourself with thoughts of this relative. He likely asked you to cosign because no one else in the family would. His attitude was, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." You did the right thing to refuse to be used. There is no need to dwell on it further.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

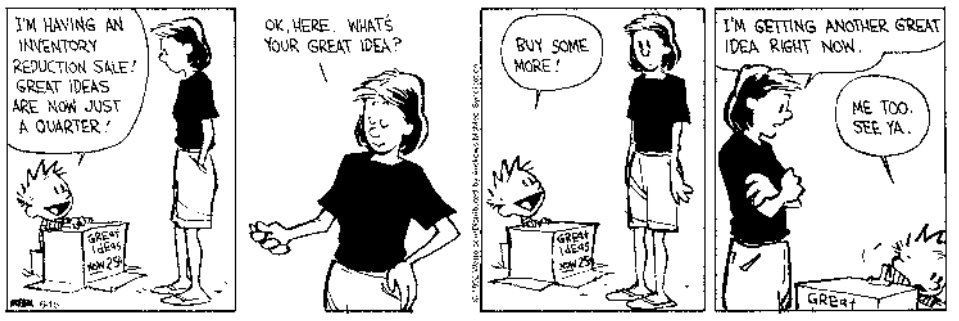
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HAVING AN INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE! GREAT IDEAS ARE NOW JUST A QUARTER!
OK, HERE. WHAT'S YOUR GREAT IDEA?
BUY SOME MORE!
I'M GETTING ANOTHER GREAT IDEA RIGHT NOW.
ME TOO. SEE YA.
GREAT

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

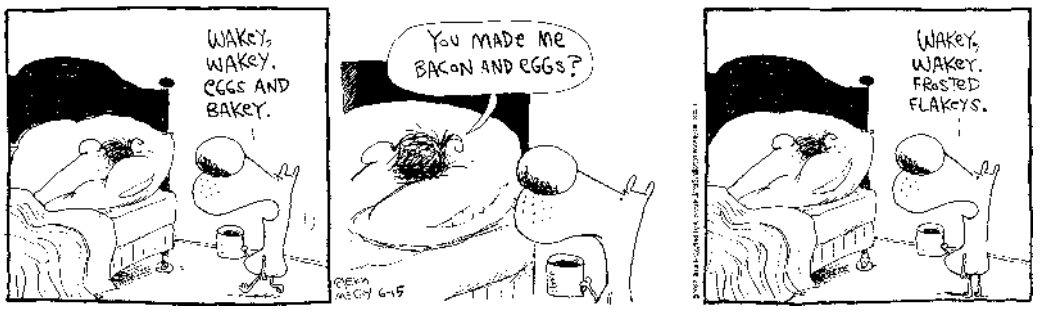
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

TELL ME ABOUT THIS "SISTER-CANCELING HEADPHONES" IDEA.
OKAY.
THEY'RE LIKE NOISE-CANCELING HEADPHONES, BUT FOR SISTERS.
YEAH, BUT HOW ARE OURS DIFFERENT?
MAYBE THESE COME WITH A BLINDFOLD SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE YOUR SISTER, EITHER? I'M SPITBALLING, HERE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

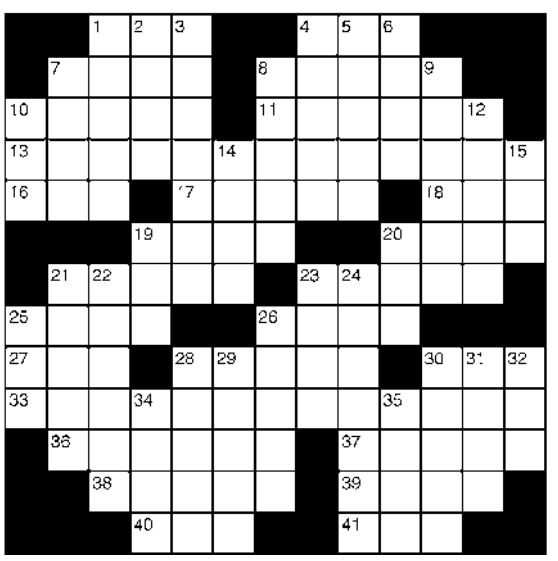
1 Plead
4 Belfry critter
7 Suitor
8 Comforter cover
10 Italian wine
11 Steamy
13 Deep sources of water
16 Director Craven
17 Varieties
18 Pitch
19 D.C. VIPs
20 Seized wheels
21 Crossword diagrams
23 Taters
25 Estate beneficiary
26 Plane reservation
27 Bank acct. entry
28 Kick out
30 Justice Dept. agency
33 Cheesy pasta dish
36 Like ocean water
37 Ire
38 Cheery tunes
39 $ dispensers
40 Architect I. M.
41 "— -haw!" (cowgirl cry)

DOWN

1 Outscores
2 Roof edge
3 Surmised
4 Overcooked
5 Acknowledges
6 Head, to Henri
7 Drill
8 Sweeties
9 Inclined
10 Cutting tool
12 Applauds
14 Charged bits
15 "No seats"
19 Army address
20 Trench
21 Chaps
22 Ceremony
23 Brief moments
24 Well-worn trail
25 That fellow's
26 Factions
28 Submit taxes online
29 Starbucks size
30 Sweetie
31 Diner orders
32 "Kinda" suffix
34 Coin toss
35 Deco artist

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Neil Patrick Harris, 49; Ice Cube, 53; Courteney Cox, 58; Helen Hunt, 59.

Happy Birthday: Keep life simple and affordable. Refuse to let others coerce you into participating in things that don't interest you. Discipline and hard work are the best ways to reach your goals and comfort your soul. Knowing that you've done your best will help you go above and beyond to fulfill your wish list. Your numbers are 5, 17, 20, 24, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Back away from drama, and focus on what you need to accomplish. Overreacting will put a costly dent in your reputation, position or status. Think before you act, and say only what's necessary. Pay attention to detail. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Change what isn't working for you. Don't put up with people or situations that drain you and take away from your chance to reach your expectations. Don't dismiss or hide your ideas. Look for an affordable way to achieve your objective. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Apply for something, take advantage of an opportunity, mix business with pleasure and network your way up the ladder. Don't believe everything you hear, and get what you want in writing. Don't hold back; say what's on your mind. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Adjustments geared toward cutting back, minimizing your expenditures and doing the work yourself will put your mind at ease and give you the wiggle room you require to invest in raising your earning potential. Self-improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An emotional situation will wreak havoc on what you want. Don't overspend, exaggerate or let anger set in when moderation and peace of mind will make things better. Avoid situations that are health risks or those that can damage your reputation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pay attention to making changes that showcase how versatile you are. How you present yourself to those around you is indicative of what you can expect in return. Love yourself, and others will see you through the same lens. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make your surroundings more comfortable, but don't overspend. You'll find a discrepancy in your financial papers or when sharing expenses. Catch up; leave nothing to chance or unfinished. An opportunity will require honest and open discussion before you proceed. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Travel, sign up to learn something new or update your image. Making a change will encourage you to get out more. Don't take on any responsibilities you can't handle. Get out and be happy. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll attract interesting people, but don't put your trust in them. Show your intelligence, and know when to decline or move on to more critical tasks. Consider changes at home that will make your life easier. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Tiptoe through any situation that is sensitive. Put your energy into something that encourages better health and self-improvement. A physical change will help you leave the past behind. Choose peace and love over chaos. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let anyone ruin your plans. Keep your intentions a secret until you are confident that nothing will stand in your way. Dig in and do the groundwork first, move on to enjoy the success that follows. Home improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Stop dreaming and start doing. Get your to-do list and push forward. Call in those you can trust to do things your way. A change of heart will give you a different perspective regarding lifestyle and love. Embrace what feels right. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, flexible and strong-willed. You are resourceful and generous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	7	6	9	1	8	
8							5
7			5	4			9
2		6			7		1
3			8		9		4
9					8		6
	2	3	1	5			8
							7
				6	5	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Yesterday's Answer

9	4	8	2	5	7	6	1	3
5	7	6	4	1	3	9	2	8
1	2	3	6	8	9	4	7	5
7	8	5	3	6	4	1	9	2
3	9	4	1	2	8	7	5	6
2	6	1	9	7	5	8	3	4
4	1	7	8	3	2	5	6	9
8	5	2	7	9	6	3	4	1
6	3	9	5	4	1	2	8	7

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HANDS-ON Solution: 7 letters

G	T	T	T	R	A	C	E	U	S	S	I	T	M	S
E	N	X	H	S	E	S	A	E	R	C	F	I	I	K
Z	K	I	E	R	U	T	S	E	G	S	N	G	T	E
I	N	A	T	T	O	N	E	P	T	D	N	I	T	L
R	U	E	H	T	E	W	V	R	E	L	A	D	E	E
U	C	P	S	S	E	E	O	X	A	N	R	T	N	T
T	K	A	K	L	M	P	L	N	R	I	C	N	S	O
S	L	H	C	L	S	H	G	T	O	A	H	I	E	N
I	E	S	A	B	M	U	H	T	T	I	Y	A	L	O
O	U	P	R	I	A	G	T	H	N	I	T	P	T	D
M	S	G	C	G	R	S	S	C	F	Y	L	O	R	N
O	E	K	E	K	I	A	O	O	P	A	U	A	L	E
T	E	T	I	R	W	U	L	E	Y	C	W	R	I	T
O	S	D	W	N	N	D	L	O	H	P	O	I	N	T
R	S	O	F	T	N	E	M	A	G	I	L	E	E	F

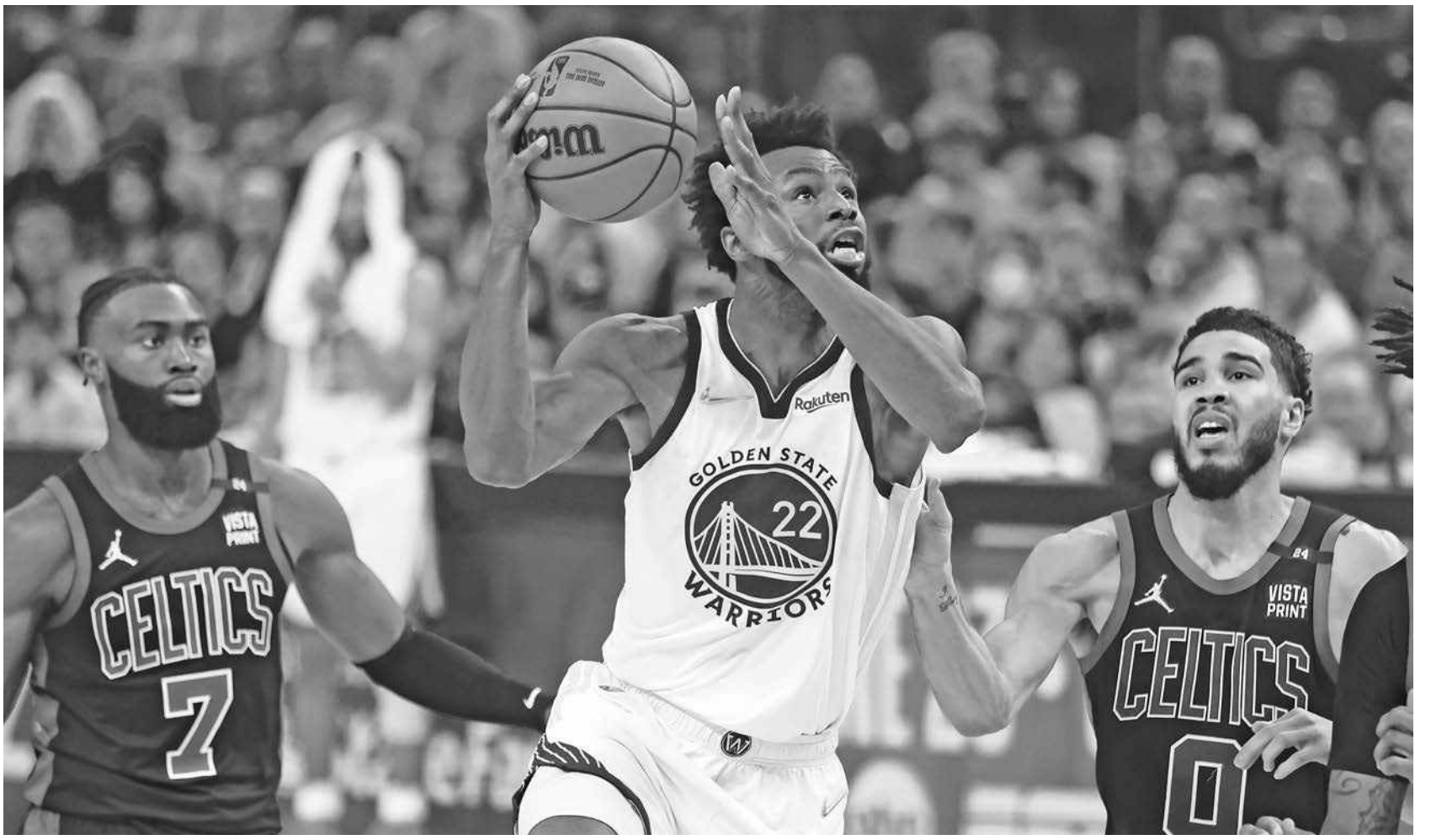
©2012 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 6/15

Arch, Count, Cracks, Creases, Digit, Draw, Feel, Fold, Gesture, Gloves, Hair, Hold, Hugs, Index, Kids, Knuckle, Ligament, Line, Little, Lotion, Mittens, Moisturize, Motor, Muscle, Paint, Palm, Pencil, Petting, Play, Point, Sense, Shake, Shape, Sign Language, Skeleton, Skin, Soft, Sports, Tendon, Tense, Text, Throw, Thumb, Tissue, Touch, Trace, Type, Wash, Wrist, Write, X-ray

Yesterday's Answer: Experiences

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Wiggins delivers on both ends, Warriors lead NBA Finals, 3-2



AP

Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins (22) shoots against Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) and forward Jayson Tatum (0) during the first half of Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals in San Francisco, Monday, June 13, 2022.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Andrew Wiggins delivered the biggest game yet in his eight-year career with 26 points and 13 rebounds, Klay Thompson scored 21 points and the Golden State Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 104-94 on Monday night for a 3-2 NBA Finals lead.

Stephen Curry contributed 16 points and eight assists but was 0 for 9 from 3-point range. The career 3-point leader's NBA-record streak of 132 straight postseason games with at least one 3 ended, along with his NBA-best run of 233 consecutive games with a 3 between regular season and playoffs combined.

Exhibiting a determined confidence and grit all evening, Wiggins drove through the lane for an emphatic one-handed slam with 2:10 left to cap his brilliant performance on both ends.

The Warriors can win their fourth title in eight years when the series resumes in Boston on Thursday night. If the Celtics can win at home, the series will return to the Bay Area for a winner-take-all Game 7 on Sunday. All five games so far have been decided by 10 or more points.

Jayson Tatum had 27 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics, who lost consecutive games for the first time in the postseason. Marcus Smart was whistled for a technical foul then an offensive foul in a one-second span early in the fourth. He overcame a slow start to score 20 points.

Jordan Poole knocked down a 33-foot 3 from the left wing to beat the third-quarter buzzer as the Warriors took a 75-74 lead into the final 12 minutes after the Celtics roared back in the third.

The Celtics found their own third-quarter magic that has long defined Golden State's success in the second half. Boston trailed 51-39 at the break before charging back with a 35-point outburst in the third.

Al Horford hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 6:28 left in the period that made it 58-55 as the Celtics finally found their shooting groove from deep. Grant Williams' three-point play at 3:55 gave Boston a 66-61 lead.

That was Boston's eighth straight made 3 after missing the initial 12.

Jaylen Brown was 2 for 11 to start the game and finished with 18 points on 5-of-18 shooting and missed all five of his 3-point tries.

Tatum gave Boston its first 3-pointer on the night 4:34 before halftime and the Celtics were 11 of 32 from deep overall.

Golden State wound up 9 of 40 from beyond the arc — Wiggins 0 of 6.

Draymond Green had eight points, eight rebounds and seven assists before fouling out with 3:01 remaining.

Thompson shot 7 for 14 with 5 3-pointers in another shining playoff moment.

Monday marked exactly three years since Thompson tore the ACL in his left knee and had surgery before later tearing his right Achilles tendon while working back from the first injury — forcing him to miss more than 2 1/2 years.

Thompson was hurt in the deciding Game 6 of the 2019 NBA Finals as Toronto clinched the franchise's first championship playing on the Warriors' previous home floor in Oracle Arena.

Entering Game 5, Thompson's 35.8% shooting was the lowest for any NBA Finals he has played, and he is making just 34.2% from deep — down from 58.5% on 3s in the 2019 finals.

In a trip down memory lane, Steve Kerr coached the Warriors on the 25th anniversary of his game-winning shot in Game 6 of NBA Finals as the Bulls beat the Jazz to clinch Chicago's fifth championship.

He thought back to that special moment before the game.

"An incredible memory obviously. Something every young basketball player dreams of. So to be able to live that was pretty amazing," Kerr said, smiling. "And then the fact that it's 25 years ago just makes me feel old, of course."

NBA's Adam Silver enters protocols, missing Game 5 of finals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—NBA Commissioner Adam Silver canceled plans to attend Game 5 of the NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and Boston Celtics on Monday night because of the league's health and safety protocols.

Silver typically attends all finals games.

The league did not say if Silver had tested positive for COVID-19 or been deemed a close contact of someone who had, nor released any details about his health.

Also unclear is when Silver will be able to resume attending games. Part of his role as commissioner involves handing out the league's championship trophy, which one team will be awarded either Thursday in Boston or Sunday in San Francisco.

Silver has been the NBA's commissioner since February 2014. This is the ninth championship series the league has held during his tenure, including the 2020 season that resumed inside a bubble at Walt Disney World in Florida in the early stages of the pandemic.

Streaky Celtics hit cold spot at bad time in Game 5 loss

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Boston Celtics couldn't make a 3-pointer to start the game and found themselves in a deep hole. Then they couldn't miss and turned the game around.

But when the outside shooting failed them down the stretch, the Celtics had no answer against the Golden State Warriors and now head home on the brink of elimination following a 104-94 loss in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Monday night.

"For us, it's really about consistency," coach Ime Udoka said. "That's the thing we're not having throughout a full game, is consistent efforts, sustained effort, more so offensively than anything. That's the part where we got to have carryover not only game to game but quarter to quarter, where we saw it happened in the third but not the fourth."

The Celtics went on an outside shooting rollercoaster ride never seen before in the NBA Finals, becoming the first team ever to miss its first 12 shots from long range and then the first team to make eight straight from 3, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

They then missed seven straight down the stretch and head back home for Game 6 on Thursday night after first back-to-back losses this postseason.

"I think definitely we weren't as sharp as we needed to be during times there," Al Horford said. "Just tough. Definitely now, our backs are against the wall, and we have to see what we're made of."

The Celtics will look to turn things around and force a decisive seventh game on Sunday back in San Francisco but will need much more consistency from 3.

The scoreboard mirrored Boston's outside shooting as the Celtics fell behind 16 points early when they couldn't make a 3 and then turned things around after Jayson Tatum and Horford made back-to-back 3-pointers midway through the second quarter.

Marcus Smart added another one and then Boston made its first five 3-pointers in the third quarter — including three from Tatum — and led 66-61 after a three-point play from Grant Williams.

The Celtics then missed their next seven from long range with the key point coming at the close of the third quarter when Jaylen Brown missed a pull-up with 6 seconds left and Boston was slow to get back on defense, leading to a buzzer-beater from 3 by Jordan Poole that gave Golden State the lead.

"When we're at our best, it's simple ball movement," Udoka said. "I think the third quarter showed that. The drive and kick was beautiful, was working, getting guys wide-open shots. I don't know if it was fatigue affects the decision making a little bit there, or just physically don't have the burst to finish it off."

Boston's frustration boiled over early in the fourth quarter starting when Klay Thompson hit a 3-pointer on a play the Celtics wanted a push-off called. Udoka, who got a technical early, got heated with official Tony Brothers during a timeout and it just built from there.

Smart got called for a technical foul of his own on the next possession and then was called for an offensive foul on the inbound pass and a delay of game warning. Poole made a basket at the other end and Boston's five-point from the third quarter turned into an 85-74 deficit.

By the time Tatum broke the late-game cold spell, it was too late for the Celtics, who spent much of the fourth quarter complaining.

"Not our best moment," Horford said. "I feel like we've been able to fend those things off, especially throughout the playoffs. For whatever reason tonight I feel like it got to us. It's one of those things that we kind of brought it back. We were able to focus back in, but we can never let that get to us. We can't let that affect our game, the way that things are being played."

Hoskins' RBI double in 9th lifts Phillies over Marlins, 3-2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Matt Vierling had a two-out, green light to steal and slid head-first so ferociously into second base that his helmet about tumbled into the outfield. That set the moment for Rhys Hoskins, who through 571 career games and 2,065 at-bats had never won a game for the Phillies on the final swing of the night.

"I found myself in those situations in the past and come up short," Hoskins said. "Either try and do too much or maybe be a little bit too passive. I was just trying to get a pitch to hit."

Hoskins found one, ripped a slider to left-center and raised his arms in celebration on his game-ending RBI double in the ninth inning that led Philadelphia over the Miami Marlins 3-2 Monday night.

"It's the best. The best," Hoskins said.

His two-out hit off Anthony Bass (1-3) scored Vierling and capped a Phillies rally from a 2-1 hole in the seventh. Vierling hit a one-out single and stole second base to get into scoring position.

"I think it put us in a good spot to win that game," Vierling said. "It ended up working out."

Sure did. The Phillies have won 10 of 11 games to streak into NL wild-card contention and rebounded from a 13-1 loss to Arizona a day earlier. The Phillies opened a stretch of seven straight games against NL East teams.

"It's big to come back and win right away and maybe we'll get on a little bit of a roll here," interim manager Rob Thomson said. "I talked to the guys before the game that we need to start winning games in our division."

Seranthony Dominguez (4-1) tossed a scoreless ninth for the win.

The Marlins have won the season series against the Phillies each of the last three years and had already won three of four this season. Sandy Alcantara was on the hill and in control until the eighth. He walked two runners to open the inning but got slumping catcher J.T. Realmuto to ground into a double play.

Alcantara, who snapped a streak of six straight starts of seven innings and one earned run or fewer, was yanked and repeatedly slammed his mitt and sent water bottles flying in the dugout.

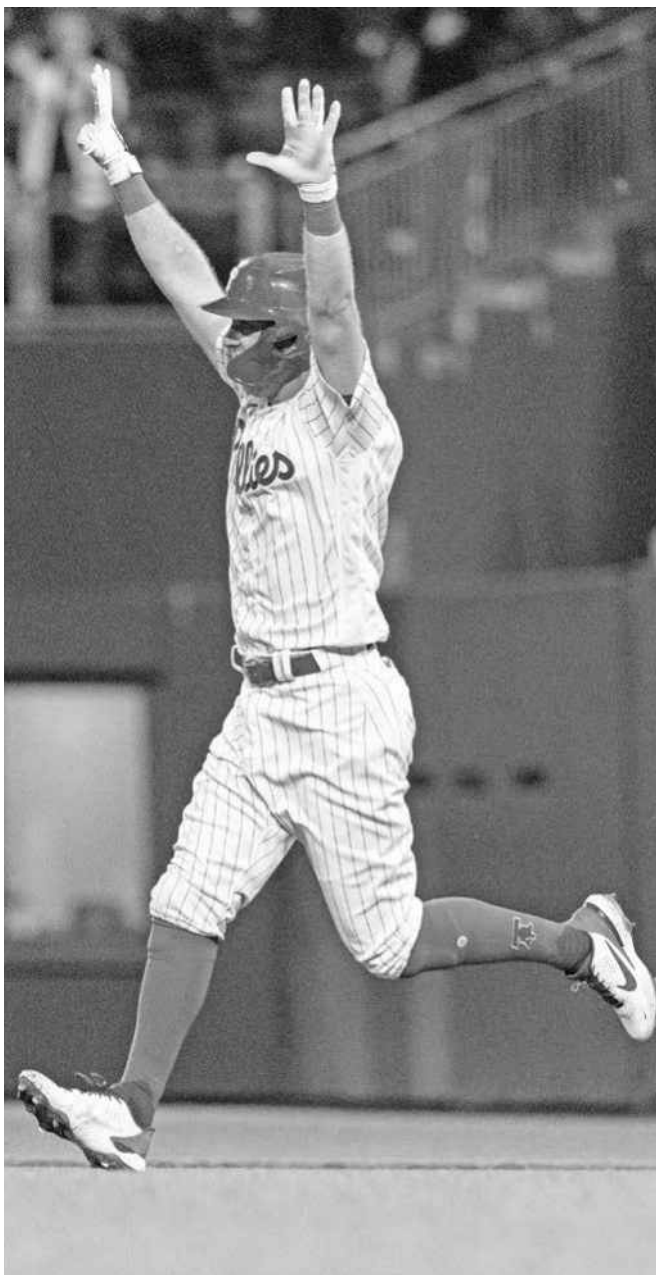
"Just got a little angry because I just wanted to finish that inning," Alcantara said.

Steven Okert promptly gave up a tying single on the first pitch to Didi Gregorius. Alcantara sat on the dugout bench and shook his head in disbelief — his shot at his fifth straight win wasted by wildness and the bullpen.

"He got us to a good spot in the game. A great spot in the game," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "Just couldn't finish it. Never really want to take Sandy out. At that point, we felt it was the best thing. He walked two guys in the inning. It looked like he was kind of out of gas the way he was forcing some stuff."

Alcantara, who hit 100.5 mph on a ball to Bryson Stott in the sixth, allowed no runs in his previous two starts and 20 straight innings overall until Bryce Harper's RBI double in the third.

He struck out five, walked three and gave up six hits in 7 2/3 innings against the Phillies.



AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Rhys Hoskins cheers as he runs to second base on an RBI-double during the ninth inning of a baseball game for a walkoff win over the Miami Marlins, Monday, June 13, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Braves, Nationals 5

In Washington, Dansby Swanson and Atlanta won their 12th straight game, beating Washington despite losing All-Star second baseman Ozzie Albies to a broken left foot.

Swanson hit one of Atlanta's season-high five homers and drove in four runs. Marcell Ozuna and Adam Duvall launched back-to-back homers for the defending World Series champions, whose winning streak is the longest in the majors this season. The stretch is Atlanta's best since it won 14 consecutive games from July 26 to Aug. 9, 2013.

Michael Harris hit his first career home run and Travis d'Arnaud also went deep for the Braves, who have 27 homers during their winning streak. Dylan Lee (1-0) allowed one run and two hits in 2 1/3 innings.

Albies fell on his way out of the batter's box on a groundout to shortstop in the fifth inning. He exited the game, and the team later announced he has a fractured left foot. It was uncertain how long he'll be sidelined.

Nationals starter Erasmo Ramirez (1-1) was a late replacement for Josiah Gray, who had warmed up in the bullpen before the rain delay. Ramirez allowed six runs and six hits over three innings.

Twins 3, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Byron Buxton belted his 18th home run, Chris Archer delivered another steady pitching performance and Minnesota defeated Seattle.

Buxton, fresh off an American League player of the week award, hit a two-run shot to right-center field off Chris Flexen (2-8) in the first inning. It was his fourth home run in five games against Seattle this season. In his last eight games versus the Mariners, Buxton is 15 for 32 with six homers.

Making his 12th start of the year, Archer went four innings and allowed only an unearned run. He gave up four hits, struck out three and was lifted after 67 pitches.

Caleb Thielbar (2-0), the first of six Twins relievers, struck out two in a hitless inning. Emilio Pagán worked the ninth for his ninth save.

White Sox 9, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Jose Abreu hit a pair of two-run homers and Luis Robert singled home the go-ahead run in the fifth inning to help Chicago beat Detroit.

White Sox right-hander Lance Lynn made his season debut, coming back from surgery on his right knee, and gave up three runs on 10 hits over 4 1/3 innings. Lynn had a heated exchange with Chicago third base coach Joe McEwing in the dugout after the second inning.

Bennett Sousa (3-0) threw 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Rony Garcia (0-2) allowed four runs and five hits over four-plus innings.

Willi Castro hit a leadoff homer for the Tigers. Miguel Cabrera had two hits, including an RBI single. Harold Castro added three hits and two RBIs.

Kody Clemens, the son of seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens, went 2 for 2 with a walk and scored twice — his first two major league hits after starting his career 0 for 17.

Padres 4, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Yu Darvish pitched a season-high eight innings of five-hit ball, Manny Machado hit a tiebreaking single and Eric Hosmer had a two-run double to cap a three-run eighth inning as San Diego beat Chicago.

Darvish (6-3), pitching at Wrigley Field for the first time since the Cubs traded him to the Padres as the centerpiece of a seven-player trade on Dec. 29, 2020, didn't allow a runner past second base after Yan Gomes hit a home run in the second. Taylor Rogers pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 19th save.

The Padres (38-24) won for the fifth time in their last seven games. The Cubs (23-37) have lost seven consecutive games, matching their longest skid since Sept. 21-28, 2021.

The Padres pounced on reliever Rowan Wick (1-2), with Machado collecting his 1,499th career hit and scoring an insurance run on Hosmer's double.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 5

In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning and Dylan Carlson added a three-run blast to help St. Louis rally past Pittsburgh.

Brendan Donovan added a two-run double for St. Louis, which rallied from a 5-0 deficit. St. Louis has won six of seven against its NL Central rival this season.

Michael Chavis and Diego Castillo homered for the Pirates, who have lost a season-high seven straight games.

Goldschmidt broke a 5-all tie with his 13th homer off reliever Chris Stratton (3-3). Carlson punctuated a five-run outburst in the sixth with a three-run homer that tied the game.

Giovanny Gallegos (2-2) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief. Ryan Helsley recorded his fifth save in seven chances.

Blue Jays 11, Orioles 1

In Toronto, Alek Manoah pitched six shutout innings to extend his streak to 12, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered and had three RBIs, and Toronto beat Baltimore.

Santiago Espinal had two hits and drove in three runs as the Blue Jays pounded out a season-high 19 hits, including seven in a seven-run fifth inning.

Manoah (8-1) has won three straight starts and four consecutive decisions. He pitched six scoreless innings to beat the Royals in his previous start on June 7 at Kansas City. Manoah allowed one hit, Jorge Mateo's leadoff single in the third. He walked one and struck out seven.

Orioles right-hander Kyle Bradish (1-4) allowed five runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings, extending his winless streak to six starts. He walked one and struck out three.

Giants 6 Royals 2

In San Francisco, Alex Wood pitched four-hit ball over six innings for his first win in more than a month, and San Francisco beat Kansas City.

Thairo Estrada hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the sixth and Brandon Crawford doubled in two runs, lifting the Giants to their fourth straight win and sixth in eight games. Austin Slater walked twice and scored twice.

Coming off his best start of the season when he went seven innings against the Rockies, Wood (4-5) had five strikeouts and one walk. The left-hander retired his final 10 batters after Bobby Witt Jr.'s RBI single in the third, ending his night after 80 pitches.

Estrada lined a 2-2 pitch from Amir Garrett (1-1) into left-center to drive in Slater. Slater led off the inning with a pinch-hit walk and took second on a wild pitch.

Rangers 5, Astros 3

In Arlington, Texas, Brad Miller grounded an RBI single through a drawn-in infield for the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and Texas beat AL West-leading Houston for its third consecutive victory.

Jonah Heim greeted reliever Héctor Neris (1-3) with a single to open the three-run eighth before pinch-runner Charlie Culberson stole second base and advanced on a grounder. Ezequiel Durán drove him home with a tying single, then the rookie third baseman had his first career stolen base and went to third on a wild pitch before Miller's hit.

Corey Seager had two hits to snap a 3-for-35 slump before his RBI groundout in the eighth sent home the final run for the Rangers (29-31), who are alone in second place but 7 1/2 games behind the Astros.

Houston designated hitter Yordan Álvarez went 2 for 4 to extend his on-base streak to 14 games.

Brock Burke (4-1), the second Texas reliever, pitched two scoreless innings before Matt Moore worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

Reds 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Brandon Drury hit a tying three-run homer in the fifth inning, Mike Moustakas added a go-ahead single in the sixth and Cincinnati rallied past Arizona.

Drury's 12th home run came off Merrill Kelly (5-4) and tied it at 4. The next inning, Matt Reynolds beat out an infield hit, stole second and scored when Moustakas dropped a broken-bat blooper down the right-field line.

Mike Minor (1-2) withstood a rough start and completed 6 1/3 innings for Cincinnati. He allowed eight hits and four runs, striking out five. Hunter Strickland pitched a hitless ninth for his second save.

Docomo Pacific donates over $60K to Mini Games

Docomo Pacific is the latest gold sponsor of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 after handing over $60,000 worth of in-kind donations to the Mini Games Organizing Committee last Monday at their main office in Gualo Rai.

The telecommunications and entertainment company's donation includes: 1,800 Pre-Loaded SIM kits for participating athletes and their entourage; $11,000 worth of commercial airtime for NMPMG spots across multiple networks; sports kits for each participating athlete that consists of a sport drawstring bag, water bottle, cooling towel, and earbuds; exclusive offers for NMPMG participants; and prepaid phone card vending machines and device charging stations to keep participants and spectators connected.

ANGEL LI

Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, left; MGOC CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, third from left; Docomo Pacific general manager Pauline Johnson, fourth from left; and Docomo Pacific CNMI brand manager Brent Deleon Guerrero pose for a group shot along with Docomo Pacific management team members.

Additionally, Docomo Pacific has released a video tribute in celebration of the CNMI which is the host country of this year's Games. The TV commercial can be viewed via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ko4yrRwrDA

"The NMPMG will bring athletes from 24 countries in Oceania to the CNMI. As the host country, we wanted to make sure that all participants could enjoy the best mobile connectivity experience during their visit. This way they can put all their focus on the games and exploring our beautiful islands and culture," said Docomo Pacific general manager Pauline Johnson

The commercial will be posted on social media, cable TV, YouTube, and in the movie theaters. Docomo Pacific hopes the commercial will give motivation and energize the viewers to support the athletes.

Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta thanked Docomo Pacific for creating the commercial for the Mini Games.

"We're honored that the commercial recognized the athletes, the national teams, and the entire Pacific Games Association that are here and have worked and trained very hard for this moment. It is time for them to deliver their part, which is a good and clean competition for us to enjoy. One Pacific as we bring in 20 other countries," he said, while adding this year's Mini Games is truly CNMI-wide as there will be triathlon on Rota and some beach volleyball games on Tinian.

He added that currently there are over 500 athletes in town who are practicing around the roads.

"We have countries such as Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and many more countries. It's just amazing that it is happening."

Since its conception in 1981, the Pacific Mini Games has been a premier multi-sport event displaying athletic talent from the different countries and territories located in Oceania.

This competition takes place every four years and will be hosted for the first time in the CNMI from June 17 to 25, 2022. The Games will include approximately 1,400 athletes from 20 Pacific Games Association members to compete in nine sports—athletics, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, weightlifting, and *va'a*.

For more information and a full schedule of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, you can visit their website at https://northernmarianas2022.com, email info.northernmarianas2022@gmail.com, or call +1(670)-235-2022. ***(Angel Li/PR)***

OFF

From Page 20

sity player and Samoa Pacific Games veteran Robbie Schorr, Metropolitan State University of Denver's Isabel Herras, and Albany State University's Asia Raulerson.

The four join Colin Ramsey, Bobby Cruz, Hye Jin Elliot, and Serin Chung in the national tennis team.

Sinclair, who grew up in the CNMI and is the son of Pacific Games veterans Peter and Kathryn, said returning to the CNMI after 12 years is surreal.

"It's crazy how much I remember. I've been thinking about this place my whole life and it's been in the back of my mind. I saw Managaha again and I came from the airport this morning and saw our old house. It feels like home."

In the Mini Games competition, the 27-year-old said the field seems to be as strong as it was in Samoa.

"I know it's the Mini Games but the level will be just as good as the Pacific Games. I know some of these guys by playing Davis Cup with them—Brett Baudinet of Cook Island, Clemont Mainguy of Vanuatu, and Matthew Stubbing over here from PNG. I really think it's going to be a good level and the CNMI has a really good chance at doing well."

As the expected top seed, Sinclair said he will just take it one game at a time.

"Looking at Robbie right now in the team event, we have a very good chance. Robbie is a really strong No. 2. I think we'll do really well. I will play mixed doubles with Isabel who I haven't played with before. So, that's going to be fun and I think she's a really strong player. Will do OK and we'll see."

Sinclair also said the $6,000 incentive for a gold medal being dangled in the Mini Games is "amazing."

"I'm pretty excited to be honest with the $6,000 incentive for the gold medal. Traveling around playing tennis in the circuit that I'm in I don't see that kind of money too often."

Schorr, meanwhile, said he's been practicing at the newly resurfaced American Memorial Park tennis courts since arriving last Thursday.

"I think we will try to win as many events as we can. We have a good team. We have Colin Sinclair on the men's team," he said.

Like his men's doubles partner, Schorr said it's a nice touch that the government has incentivized podium finishes in this year's Mini Games.

"A lot of pressure to win the gold medal with the $6,000 incentive, but we're here to have fun, compete, and play tennis."

For Herras, getting the opportunity to play with Sinclair and competing for a gold medal is a thrill of a lifetime.

"I am definitely looking forward to partnering with Colin Sinclair. He is an amazing pro player. We hope to bring the CNMI a gold medal."

Other than that Herras is just happy to be at home playing and representing the CNMI.

"I started playing tennis at the AMP courts and it's crazy to think that 13 years later, I'm playing at the same courts representing the CNMI in the Mini Games. These AMP courts have been through a lot throughout the years and the new surface has made these courts incredible. I look forward to competing on these courts," she said.

Raulerson echoed Herras when she said that it's great to be back home.

"I feel a lot of nostalgia because I just remember a lot of stuff just driving around everywhere. The last time I was on Saipan was in 2016," she said.

Raulerson said playing in the Mini Games will allow her to showcase how much she improved since leaving the islands.

"It's a great opportunity to just show myself out there and see how I can do against these great players and see where I'm at. I did pretty well last season and our conference record was 12-2 and I got All-American honors for both singles and doubles for NCAA II."

Sinclair also encouraged everyone in the CNMI to support the home team.

"I love to see as much support from the home crowd as possible. It's gonna be a really good high level of tennis we'll be playing here. Anytime you have a chance to come down please do so as we'll be playing the whole 10 or so days.

MEDAL

From Page 20

ter collecting two gold medals, five silver medals, and a bronze medal.

Pharmin got his first gold in the 110m hurdles after posting a time of 23.37. He won his second gold in the high jump with a leap of 1.53m.

His silver medals came in the shotput (8.60m), 60m (7.74), 100m (12.02), 200 (26.02), and 400m (60.07). Pharmin's lone bronze was in javelin after throwing for 35.31.

The rest of the team is made up of Michael Mancao, Zarinae Sapong, and Liamwar Rangamar.

Mancao took part in the 3,000m steeplechase and 800m run, running a 13:10.23 and 2:22.61, respectively. Sapong finished the 100m with a time of 13.04 and the 200m in 27.64, while Rangamar's longest throw in the javelin was 30.29m.

In all, Team CNMI earned a total of 36 points competing in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships. Tan had 18 points, Cabrera and Mancao scored 7 points apiece, and Rangamar earned 4 points. Snyder added that Sapong qualified for the 100m but not as a point scorer.

Snyder also admitted that Team CNMI collecting three medals in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships was really just a bonus, considering that off-island meets were canceled the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I didn't realize how much I missed competing off island until we got to Australia. The event was so well-run and full of incredible athletes from throughout the region. It was a joy competing against them and getting to know them. Runners are a special breed. They will compete to the point of collapse against each other and then, after pushing themselves to their limits where one beats another, their first instinct is to hug their opponent and strike up a conversation in the timing tent," he said.

BEACH

From Page 20

the chance to return home.

"It's a blessing to be back because I get to see my family and friends again. I'm also extremely honored to be able to represent my home in such a large event that we are hosting. We will do our best to bring a beach volleyball victory to the CNMI."

Mister said he feels nothing but excitement for the Games which will have its opening ceremony this Friday, June 17.

"I expect that Andrew and I will give it our all. We are not sure how our competition will be, but we are expecting to play at the highest level and are striving to win it. Playing at home is amazing, having the support from the crowd will definitely help us take it to the next level."

Like Andrew, Mister said nothing really compares to being back home.

"It's great to be home. I'm happy to see so many familiar faces and reconnect with those that I grew up with."

For Winkfield, her doubles team with Lizama is hoping for the best in the Mini Games.

"We are mentally preparing for the Games and expecting some good competition in hopes of a medal. Do we have a chance? There is always a chance. It's always good to have an open mind to all possible outcomes."

She said the wildcard in the CNMI's chances for a podium finish is the home crowd.

"Advantages of playing on home soil is that we have the support of our family, friends, and community first hand and being comfortable on our home turf."

On strategy, Winkfield's main focus is to read and analyze and predict where the ball would end up and get there as soon as possible.

"More like predicting where the ball would drop and getting there as soon as possible but not as fast as possible," she said.

Winkfield said the CNMI is blessed to host the Games.

"Good luck to everyone in the Games and if you have time, come watch volleyball and we hope to give you a fun and exciting time and show. Go CNMI."

Lizama, who got her start playing the CNMI's indigenous sport of Rocball, said she feels ready for the Mini Games, while admitting she is both excited and nervous.

She added winning a medal is not far-fetched and looks forward to the support from the community and family during the Games.

National beach volleyball coach Tyce Mister likes what he sees in the foursome of Mister (his eldest son), Johnson, Winkfield, and Lizama.

Before returning to Saipan, Mister said Logan and Johnson played in many high-level tournaments like the Triple Lay Slash open tournament in Santa Cruz, California.

Winkfield and Lizama, meanwhile, are two seasoned beach volleyball veterans who have been through a lot in the sand courts of Saipan, according to the former Marianas High School teacher.

Mister will be assisted in the team by assistant coach Chris Nelson. Both won beach volleyball gold in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan. ***(Angel Li)***

Wiggins delivers on both ends, Warriors lead NBA Finals, 3-2

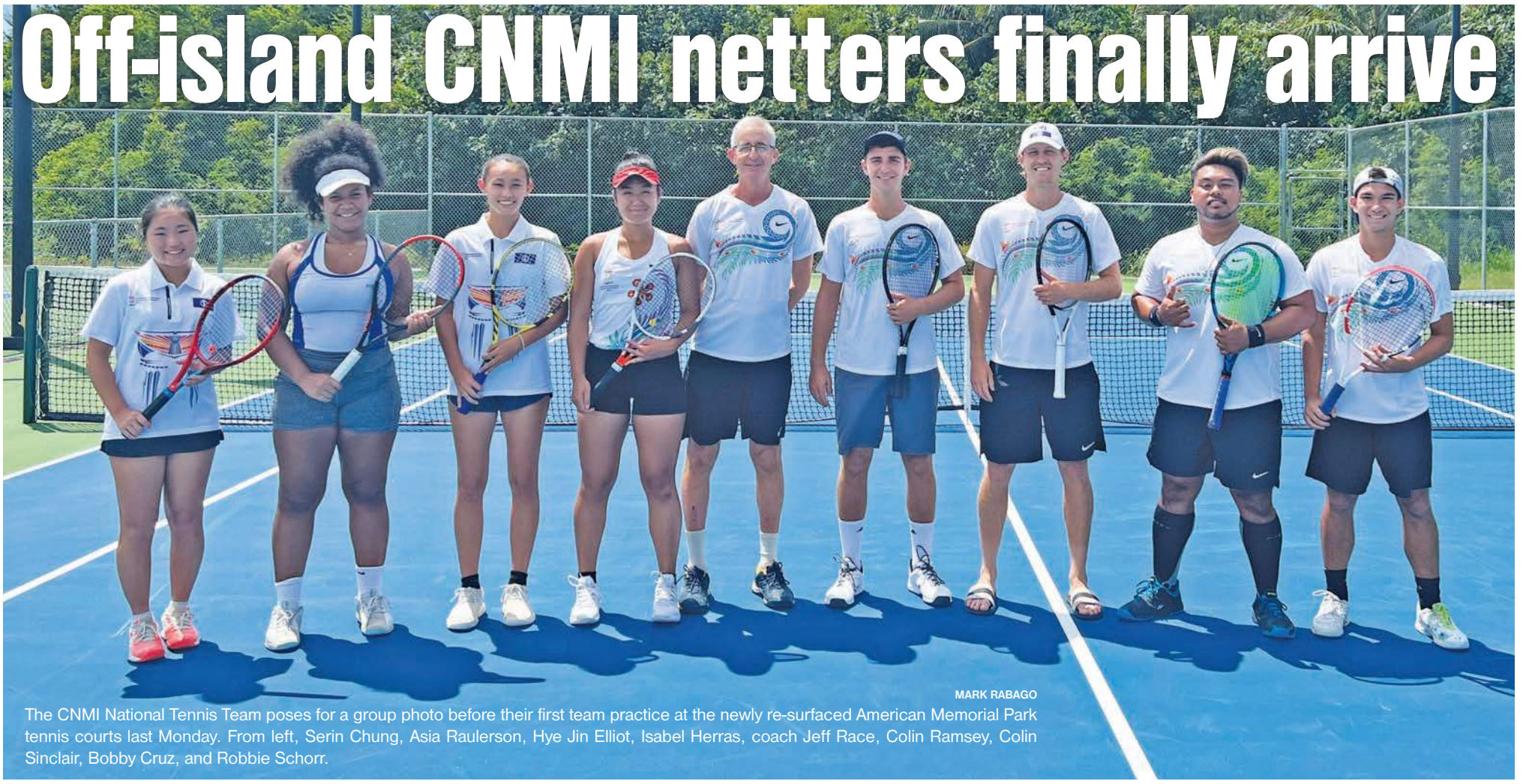
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Docomo Pacific donates over $60K to Mini Games

PAGE 19

Off-island CNMI netters finally arrive



MARK RABAGO

The CNMI National Tennis Team poses for a group photo before their first team practice at the newly re-surfaced American Memorial Park tennis courts last Monday. From left, Serin Chung, Asia Raulerson, Hye Jin Elliot, Isabel Herras, coach Jeff Race, Colin Ramsey, Colin Sinclair, Bobby Cruz, and Robbie Schorr.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI National Tennis Team is finally complete and ready to defend home soil in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 after the arrival of several highly touted netters.

Last Monday national tennis coach and NMSA Sports of Famer Jeff Race finally saw his players up close and personal as the team held its first practice four days before the opening of the quadrennial event.

"We had a good practice today. It feels great to have the team all together," he said.

Arriving these past few days to complete the team are defending men's singles and mixed doubles champion Colin Sinclair, who plays in the ITF men's tour; Pacific William Woods University var-

See OFF on Page 19

Beach volleyball team vows to give all

The CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team of Andrew Johnson, Logan Mister, Kathy Winkfield, and Charnessa Lizama have been working their tails off to become the best versions of themselves for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"We've been working everyday in preparation for the Games. There's always a chance to place, we just need to be more hungry for it than the other teams are. Our expectations are high, but it's tough to determine the level of play the other teams will be bringing," said Johnson, who graduated from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo in 2019.

He said playing the Mini Games also afforded himself

See BEACH on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI National Beach Volleyball Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. From left, Kathy Winkfield, Charnessa Lizama, coach Tyce Mister, Logan Mister, and Andrew Johnson.

Snyder: 3 medals was more than I was hoping for

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI National Athletics Team in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships make a funny pose. From left, Michael Mancao, Zarinae Sapong, Liamwar Rangamar, coach Dr. Ron Snyder, Tiana Cabrera, Tania Tan, and Orrin Pharmin.

The CNMI National Athletics Team gave a good account of itself in the 2022 Oceania Athletics Championships after coming home from Mackay, Australia with three medals.

National coach Dr. Ron Snyder said he's very happy with the team's performance in the four-day meet.

"They were super competitors, great travelers, and a joy to coach. Three medals was more than I was hoping for but we also earned some good points from our non-medaling athletes. In fact, each of them brought success to themselves and the team. Our masters athlete also did admirably and got some good practice in for his events here on Saipan."

Tania Tan won gold in the 10-kilometer run (41:15.60) and settled for silver in her favorite 5-km event (19:31.01), while Tiana Cabrera, won a bronze medal in the 3,000m run (13:23.29).

CNMI masters athlete Orrin Pharmin also made waves in the Land Down Under af-

See MEDALS on Page 19